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Protests and celebrations mark Women's Day, despite threats

By ADAM GELLER

NEW YORK (AP) — From the streets of Manila to the plazas of Santiago, Chile, people around the world marked International Women's Day on Sunday with calls to end exploitation and increase equality. But tensions marred some celebrations, with police reportedly using tear gas to break up a demonstration by thousands of women in Turkey and security forces arresting demonstrators at

a rally in Kyrgyzstan.

"In many different ways or forms, women are being exploited and taken advantage of," Arlene Brosas, the representative of a Filipino advocacy group said during a rally that drew hundreds to the area near the presidential palace. Protesters called for higher pay and job security, and demanded that President Rodrigo Duterte respect women's rights.

Continued on next page



A protester dances during a march on International Women's Day in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, March 8, 2020. Thousands of women are marching in Madrid and other Spanish cities as part of International Women's Day.

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Continued from front

Turkish riot police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of demonstrators who, in defiance of a government ban, tried to march along Istanbul's main pedestrian street to mark International Women's Day, media reports said.

Turkish authorities declared Istiklal street, near Istanbul's main Taksim square, off-limits, and said the planned march down the avenue was unauthorized. Thousands of demonstrators, most of them women, gathered near Istiklal regardless and tried to break through police barricades to reach it, according to the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper and other media. The independent T24 news website said police also fired blanks to disperse the crowd.

Several demonstrators were detained, according to Cumhuriyet.

Turkish authorities have restricted protests in the country in recent years, citing security. Police had set up barricades on all streets leading to Istiklal and closed down the nearest subway stop.

In Pakistan, however, women managed to rally in cities across the country, despite petitions filed in court seeking to stop them. The opposition was stirred in part by controversy over a slogan used in last year's march: "My Body, My Choice."

Some conservative groups had threatened to stop this year's marches by force. But Pakistani officials pledged to protect the marchers. The rallies are notable in a conservative country where women often do not feel safe in public places because of open harassment. The main Islamic political party, Jamaat-e-Islami, organized its own rallies to counter the march.

In Brazil, protests took a political turn, with many

of the tens of thousands of protesters in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia denouncing the administration of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro, who has made comments seen by many as offensive to women.

A group of women, their mouths covered in a blood-colored hand print, performed a dance in commemoration of Marielle Franco, the black Rio state councilwoman that was killed in 2018. Two years have gone by and the mastermind of the attack against the leftist politician and LGBT activist has yet to be found.

One of the largest demonstrations occurred in Chile, where crowds thousands flooded the streets of the capital with dancing, music and angry demands for gender equality and an end to violence against women.

"They kill us, they rape us and nobody does anything," some chanted.

National police estimated 125,000 took part in the capital and nearly 35,000 in other cities, but organizers said the crowds were far larger. Scattered clashes broke out at points when demonstrators threw rocks at police, who responded with water cannon.

Many protesters demanded that a proposed new constitution strengthen rights for women and thousands wore green scarves in a show of support for activists in neighboring Argentina, which is considering a proposal to legalize elective abortion.

Tens of thousands of women also marched through Paris, inveighing against the "virus of the patriarchy."

"Enough impunity!" chanted some activists, who focused on France's unusually high rate of women killed by their husbands. Last year, one woman was killed every two or three



A woman covers her face as she participates in a rally celebrating International Women's Day at Washington Square Park in New York, Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Associated Press

days by a current or former partner, and the government is increasing efforts to crack down on domestic violence.

"They should provide resources for shelters for women, victim of violence, real resources, human resources, also prevention programs for violent men," union activist Julia Parbotin said. Tens of thousands of women also marched in Madrid and other Spanish cities, despite concern over the spread of the new coronavirus.

A massive banner reading, "With rights, without barriers. Feminists without frontiers" in Spanish was carried at the front of the march in the capital.

Spanish health authorities said did not put any restrictions on the march, but recommended that anyone with symptoms similar to those of the coronavirus stay home. Authorities said 120,000 people participated in Madrid's march, down from 350,000 last year.

At a school in East London, meanwhile, the duchess of Sussex, Meghan Markle, joined students in listening to speeches about women labor activists, and urged

both girls and boys to respect the contributions of women every day of the year.

"For young men ... you have your mothers, sisters, girlfriends, friends in your life — protect them. Make sure they are feeling valued and safe," she told the students. But safety was in short supply at some events to mark the day.

The detonation of explosives triggered panic at a ceremony in Bamenda, an English-speaking town in the northwest of Cameroon. Suspicions focused on separatists who had vowed to disrupt the events. No one was killed or wounded. Police in Bishkek, the capital city of Kyrgyzstan, detained about 60 people after a group of unidentified men broke up what authorities

called an unauthorized rally.

Demonstrators had gathered in the city's main square to express support for women's and children's rights. But unidentified men barged into the gathering. Police said people from both sides were detained, but news reports said they were primarily women. They were released several hours later, after about 10 had been charged with resisting police, the Akipress news agency reported, citing an attorney.

In Nicaragua, where authorities have banned opposition protests since September 2018, police surrounded and blocked two groups of women at a church and human rights office who had planned to stage a demonstration. □

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Trump to skip St. Patrick's Day Hill luncheon, blames Pelosi

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Irish eyes at the U.S. Capitol will not smile on President Donald Trump on St. Patrick's Day.

Trump is skipping an annual bipartisan luncheon with House and Senate lawmakers celebrating the ties that bind the U.S. and Ireland, a White House spokesman said.

Trump blamed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"Since the speaker has chosen to tear this nation apart with her actions and her

rhetoric, the president will not participate in moments where she so often chooses to drive discord and disunity," spokesman Judd Deere said in an emailed statement.

The House speaker traditionally hosts the luncheon. Trump instead will celebrate with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at the White House on Thursday — five days before St. Patrick's Day.

Drew Hammill, a spokesman for Pelosi, said congressional support for the U.S.-Ireland relationship has

never been stronger.

"One would think that the White House could set petty, partisan politics aside for this historic occasion," Hammill said in an email.

The lunch became an annual event on Capitol Hill in 1987, missed by presidents just four times since then. Bill Clinton sent regrets after having knee surgery two days before St. Patrick's Day in 1997. George W. Bush passed on the 2003 lunch, held days before the U.S. invasion of Iraq.


Politico first reported Trump's decision. □




President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting about the coronavirus at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Friday, March 6, 2020, in Atlanta.

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Despite virus risk, 2020 hopefuls keep up campaigns for now

By HOPE YEN and WILL WEISSERT

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)

— As the coronavirus hits more states, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders said Sunday his campaign is gauging when it may become necessary to cancel the large campaign rallies that public health experts say could be breeding grounds to spread the potentially deadly illness.

"Obviously what is most important to us is to protect the health of the American people," Sanders said as he appeared in a series of TV interviews. "And what I will tell you, we are talking to public health officials all over this country."

"This is an issue that every organization, every candidate has got to deal with," he said.

Federal health authorities have been advising older people and those with medical conditions, in particular, to avoid crowded spaces, prompting the cancellation of music and arts festivals and other events around the country.



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., works the crowd after speaking at a campaign rally in Chicago's Grant Park Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Associated Press

On Sunday, Surgeon General Jerome Adams noted that the average age of death for people from the coronavirus is 80, while for those needing medical attention, it is 60.

But that so far hasn't led President Donald Trump or his two remaining major

Democratic rivals, Sanders and Joe Biden, to cut back on big campaign events. Each man is in his 70s.

Sanders said "in the best of all possible worlds" the three candidates should probably limit their travel and avoid crowds, "but right now, we're running as

hard as we can." Sanders planned a meeting Monday in Detroit with public health experts and others to discuss the outbreak. Trump on Saturday said he wasn't worried about the coronavirus getting closer to the White House after the first case in the nation's capital was confirmed over the weekend. Officials also said an attendee of a recent political conference where Trump himself had spoken also tested positive for the virus.

"No, I'm not concerned at all. No, I'm not. We've done a great job," Trump said. The Trump campaign said Sunday it is "proceeding as normal" amid the outbreak, though it has yet to announce the president's next rally.

Adams, acknowledging Trump's busy public schedule, said for many Americans "life can't stop" and that ultimately the goal was to minimize risk the best as possible.

"But speaking of being at risk, the president, he sleeps less than I do, and he's healthier than what I am," he said. "And so that's the other reason that this messaging is hard, because there are 70-year-olds who run marathons and are healthier than some 30-year-olds."

"If people are going to go

out there, we want them to be extra cautious — we want them to wash their hands frequently," Adams said.

The U.S. death toll from the virus has climbed to at least 19, with all but three victims in Washington state. The number of infections swelled to more than 400, scattered across the U.S.

Still, concerns about the spreading virus haven't stopped thousands from thronging campaign rallies in recent days.

At a Trump rally last week in Charlotte, North Carolina, the virus threat didn't deter enthusiastic fans who shared buckets of chicken fingers in the stands and dunked their hands into shared vats of popcorn while they awaited the president's arrival.

Sanders drew more than 7,000 to a convention hall in downtown Detroit on Friday night and his campaign said 15,000 people attended his rally in Chicago's Grant Park on Saturday.

Mercedes Lopez, a 56-year-old who owns a restaurant in Grand Rapids and attended an open-air Sanders rally in the city's downtown on Sunday, said she's not afraid of the virus. She said she sees the government's increased concern as a plot to distract the electorate from other, negative things that are occurring, such as increasing petty crime and official corruption.

"There's a virus but it's not at the level they are saying. It's to distract people," Lopez said.

Lopez added that she wasn't worried about attending an event with such a large group, saying, "I'm calm. I'm not going to worry about it because the more you think about, 'I'm going to protect myself against this one thing or this other thing,' it becomes impossible. You can't protect yourself from everything."

Sanders appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," NBC's "Meet the Press," and ABC's "This Week," and Adams spoke on CNN and CBS' "Face the Nation."

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Native Americans scramble over shutdown of Fargo sweat lodge

By DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — In the decade since Fargo agreed to host a sweat lodge for the many Native Americans who live in the area, the simple structure and its users have suffered a series of indignities: The land set aside for the lodge is in a gritty industrial area, a shirtless user was mistaken for a vagrant and arrested, and police mistook the lodge for a homeless encampment and had it bulldozed.

Now, the city has shuttered the lodge because of concerns over its safety and supervision, and the Native Americans who use it are worried about how they will be able to carry out their sacred healing ritual, even if many of them agree that changes were needed.

"It would be equivalent to the Catholic Church shutting down its location here in the Fargo-Moorhead area because they realized they had issues they needed to fix," Chalsey Snyder, a member of the city's Native American Commission, said recently, referring to Moorhead, Minnesota, which is across the Red River from Fargo.

"Our traditions and our ceremonies are extremely revered."

Sweat lodges are typically built low to the ground, with frames made of saplings that are covered with animal hides, blankets or even tarps to keep in the steam. They are common on reser-

ventions, but less so in urban areas such as Fargo, which is the biggest city in North Dakota, with slightly more than 100,000 residents.

Snyder, who belongs to the Three Affiliated Tribes, said the shuttering of the Fargo sweat lodge in December has caused an emergency for its diverse users, including some who come from as far away as South Dakota and Canada. The ceremonies, which are often referred to as "sweats," are important rituals that are meant to purify mind and body and that serve various other functions, depending on the tribe. The ceremonies are typically broken into rounds, with singing, praying, talking and drumming.

Whitney Fear, a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe who serves with Snyder on Fargo's Native American Commission, said time in a sweat lodge — referred to in the Lakota culture as Inipi — "takes us to a place that is reminiscent of the womb." She credits it with helping her mother stave off Stage 4 breast cancer two decades ago when an oncologist told her that her chemotherapy and radiation treatments weren't working.

"The medical professional in me probably could not explain that with science, but the Lakota woman in me can explain that it was the strength of what happens in Inipi that helped save her life," said Fear, a mental health nurse practitioner at

a Fargo community health clinic.

When the city decided to close the sweat lodge, Mayor Tim Mahoney, a longtime supporter of the lodge who founded the Native American Commission, cited reports that there had been uncontrolled heat during ceremonies that could have injured participants. A city memo in January also said some ceremonies lacked a helper and water pourer, as required by the Native American Commission's rules.

"A variety of people take part in the sweat and we just haven't had a consistent group or committee to manage it," Mahoney said. The city's fears are not unfounded. In 2009, three people died from heat exposure during a sweat lodge ceremony in Arizona run by a non-Native American self-help author who eventually served nearly two years in prison for negligent homicide. He was criticized by Native American leaders for desecrating a sacred ceremony through carelessness that reflected poorly on sweat ceremonies run safely by experienced lodge leaders.

The Native American Commission requires that each spiritual or lodge leader have proper training and rights from their respective tribes, but both Snyder and Fear said they haven't been comfortable with some of the people participating in ceremonies. □



A Native American sweat lodge located on city property in an industrial area of south Fargo, N.D., is pictured on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

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Nursing homes face unique challenge with coronavirus

By **KELLI KENNEDY** and **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**

MIAMI (AP) — From Miami to Seattle, nursing homes and other facilities for the elderly are stockpiling masks and thermometers, preparing for staff shortages and screening visitors to protect a particularly vulnerable population from the coronavirus.

In China, where the outbreak began, the disease has been substantially deadlier for the elderly. In Italy, the epicenter of the virus outbreak in Europe, the more than 100 people who died were either elderly, sick with other complications, or both.

Of the 21 deaths across the U.S. as of Sunday, at least 16 had been linked to a Seattle-area nursing home, along with many other infections among residents, staff and family members. The Seattle Times reported that a second nursing home and a retirement community in the area had each reported one case of the virus.

That has put other facilities in the U.S. on high alert, especially in states with large populations of older residents, such as Florida and California. About 2.5 million people live in long-term care facilities in the United States.

"For people over the age of 80 ... the mortality rate could be as high as 15 percent," said Mark Parkinson, president of the nursing home trade group American Health Care Association.

The federal government is now focusing all nursing home inspections on infection control, singling out facilities in cities with confirmed cases and those previously cited for not following protocol.

Federal rules already re-



In this March 4, 2020, photo, nursing assistant Natasha Borges, right, helps Rene Gonzalez, left, dry his hands after washing them at Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers of Dade County, Inc., in Miami.

Associated Press

quire the homes to have an infection prevention specialist on staff, and many have long had measures in place to deal with seasonal flus and other ailments that pose a higher risk to the elderly.

Even so, facilities' response to the coronavirus has varied across the country.

In Florida, where about 160,000 seniors live in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, mandatory visitor screening is not in place "because we're not at that stage," said Kristen Knapp, a spokeswoman for the Florida Health Care Association.

But elder care centers are posting signs urging visitors to stay away if they have symptoms, and are looking into alternate ways for families to connect, such as through video chats, Knapp said.

Concierges in the 14 Florida nursing homes run by the Palm Gardens corporation

are now giving all visitors a short questionnaire asking about symptoms, recent travel and contact with others, said company Vice President Luke Neumann. Neumann said the nursing homes also have purchased extra thermometers in case they need to check visitors' temperatures and stockpiled preventive supplies, including medical masks, protective eyewear and gowns. In the laundry rooms, they are making sure to use enough bleach and heat to kill any lingering virus germs, he said.

At the South Shore Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center south of Boston, patient Leo Marchand keeps a container of disinfecting wipes on a shelf by his bed that he uses several times a day. The 71-year-old Vietnam veteran and retired truck driver has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that makes it difficult for him to breathe. The pos-

sibility of contracting the coronavirus scares him.

"It's a concern," Marchand said. "It really is."

Many facilities across the country have said they were having trouble getting medical masks and gowns because of shortages.

More intensive screening of visitors, meanwhile, is not sitting well with some.

"Some of the visitors have been quite reluctant to comply, and that has been stressful," said Janet Snipes, executive director of Holly Heights Nursing Center in Denver.

Under federal regulations, nursing homes are considered a patient's residence, and the facilities want to keep them connected with family, especially when they are near death.

"I don't think you can flat-out prevent visitors," said Dr. David A. Nace, director of long-term care and flu programs at the University of

Pittsburgh Department of Medicine. He oversees 300 facilities in Pennsylvania.

For now, facilities in most states are stressing basic precautions, including hand washing and coughing etiquette.

Centers throughout the country are also trying to prepare their staffs for the worst.

An adult day care center in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood bought long-lasting prepared meals in preparation for possible shortages. The Hebrew Home in Riverdale, New York, is running nursing staff through drills to see how they will handle situations at the 750-bed facility if the virus progresses. Their IT department is setting up infrastructure for staff to work remotely if they become sick.

"If one of our sites has an outbreak, we quickly will deplete the staff in that location," said Randy Bury, CEO of The Good Samaritan Society, one of the largest not-for-profit providers of senior care services in the country, with 19,000 employees in 24 states.

Some families are considering pulling their loved ones out of facilities.

Kathleen Churchyard said her family has decided to move her 80-year-old mother out of her retirement community near Jacksonville, Florida, and into her sister's home nearby if the virus is confirmed in the area.

Churchyard, who lives in Concord, North Carolina, worries her mother is not taking it seriously, and is particularly worried about her dining hall.

"I tried to get her to buy some stuff to prepare. ... She said, 'No. If (the virus) takes me, it takes me,'" Churchyard said. □

Suit: Website sold ammo to underage accused Texas shooter

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — A teenager accused of fatally shooting 10 people at a Texas high school in 2018 was able to buy more than 100 rounds of ammunition online because his age was not verified, according to a lawsuit alleging that the website involved broke federal law.

Dimitrios Pagourtzis was a 17-year-old junior at the time of the May 2018 shooting at Santa Fe High School. Federal law prohibits minors from purchasing handgun ammunition, and bars licensed gun companies from selling handgun or shotgun ammunition to minors or anyone they have reason to believe is under the age of 21.

According to an amended lawsuit filed Thursday, Pagourtzis initially ordered 50 rounds of hollow-point handgun ammunition and 105 rounds of 12-gauge shotgun ammunition, the Houston Chronicle reported. Two weeks later, he purchased an additional 35 rounds of shotgun ammunition — both times from the website Luckygunner.com that did not require him to make an account, submit proof of age or set-up a secure two-step authorization, the filing said.

Among those killed at the school was a Pakistani exchange student whose

parents filed the amended petition. It's part of a lawsuit filed against the suspect's parents, Rose Marie Kosmetatos and Antonios Pagourtzis, alleging they knew their son was exhibiting extreme behavior and yet failed to prevent him from accessing their firearms, which authorities believe were used in the shooting.

Luckygunner.com, along with its owners, Red Stag, have been listed as additional defendants in the amended lawsuit, which claims Red Stag mailed the ammunition via FedEx without requiring an adult to sign for the package. Neither Luckygunner.com nor Red Stag responded to requests from the Houston Chronicle for comment.

Everytown Law, the legal arm for Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, a nationwide group, filed the petition on behalf of Abdul Aziz Sheikh and Farah Naz, the parents of Sabika Sheikh, who arrived as an exchange student last August.

In a statement, Sheikh's parents said they are committed to fighting for accountability and for a safer future.

"People need to know just how easy it was for the shooter to buy ammunition from a website that failed to take even basic steps



In this Feb. 25, 2019, file photo Dimitrios Pagourtzis, the Santa Fe High School teenage student accused of killing 10 people in a May 2018 shooting at the high school, is escorted by Galveston County Sheriff's Office deputies into the jury assembly room for a change of venue hearing at the Galveston County Courthouse in Galveston, Texas.

Associated Press

to protect the public," the statement said.

Pagourtzis was charged with capital murder and

faces life in prison. He is being held at a maximum-security mental health facility. □

Med student charged with research smuggling freed on bond

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — A medical student from China who U.S. authorities say tried to smuggle cancer research material out of the country has been freed on \$100,000 bond over the objections of federal prosecutors.

Zaosong Zheng, 30, walked out of U.S. District Court in Worcester, Massachusetts on Friday but will remain under GPS-monitored house

arrest, The Telegram & Gazette reported. His passport has also been confiscated. Zheng was arrested in December at Logan International Airport in Boston with 21 vials of cancer cells in a suitcase he was taking to China, authorities said. Zheng stole the materials from his lab at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, authorities allege. □

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Amid tensions, fire damages Greek island refugee center

By **DEMETRIS NELLAS** undefined

ATHENS (AP) — A fire broke out at a refugee center on the Greek island of Lesbos, Greece's firefighting service said Sunday, causing considerable damage to a warehouse but no injuries. It was the second fire at an installation built for migrants, after a reception center was burned down by unknown perpetrators last Monday. The warehouse, which contained furniture and electrical appliances, was completely destroyed, a firefighting spokesman told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, because an investigation into the fire is ongoing.

The blaze at the refugee center came amid a tense standoff between Turkey and the European Union over who is responsible for the millions of migrants and refugees on Turkish territory and the thousands who have massed recently at the Greek border.

Thousands of migrants headed for Turkey's land border with EU member Greece after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government announced earlier this month that it would no longer prevent migrants and refugees from crossing over into EU countries.

Greece has deployed riot police and border guards to repel people trying to enter the country and the Greek border area has since seen violent confrontations between them and the migrants.



A man stands next to a burned installation which built for migrants, on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece, Sunday, March 8, 2020.

On Saturday, youths threw rocks at Greek police and tried to break down a border fence.

Throughout Sunday, activity at the Greek-Turkish border was reduced compared to previous days, although there were still attempts to breach Greece's border fence, with Greek forces pushing back.

According to police data, a total of 745 people were prevented from crossing the border and there were two arrests from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. In total, there have been 293 arrests since 6 a.m. on Feb. 29, and 41,060 people prevented from crossing over

into Greece.

Cyprus announced Sunday evening that it will send 22 riot policemen, or a "full anti-demonstration unit" to the border to assist Greece. Cypriot government spokesman Kyriakos Kousios said that a Greek military plane was on its way to Cyprus to pick up the reinforcements later Sunday.

Earlier Sunday, Kousios had released a statement saying that the decision to send the force was announced by Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis during a telephone conversation the two had Sunday morning.

"The president's proposal

was gratefully accepted by Greece's Prime Minister and, therefore, a force from Cyprus' security forces will travel to Greece immediately to defend and guard Greece's, and Europe's, borders," the Cyprus spokesman's earlier statement said.

In Istanbul on Sunday, Erdogan called on Greece to open its borders and allow the migrants to move on to other European countries.

"These people won't stay (in your country), they will move to other European countries," Erdogan said. "Why don't you open your gates too, let them go to other countries, and rid yourself of this burden."

In a speech marking International Women's Day, Erdogan asserted that women and children were bearing the brunt of the crisis. "Is the West's heart breaking over all of this? No. Is it raising its voice? No," Erdogan said.

The Greek government released a video purporting to show a Turkish armored vehicle trying to pull down part of border fence with a rope. It claimed the vehicle was partly purchased with EU border funds. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the video. There was no immediate comment from Turkish officials.

Greece also arrested five migrants overnight.

Turkey is accusing Greece of mistreating the migrants. Many migrants have reported crossing into Greece, being beaten by Greek authorities and summarily forced back into Turkey.

A member of the UNHCR, the United Nations' refugee agency in place, acknowledged the reports.

"We are aware of reports of pushbacks and excessive use of force along the borders. We are calling for calm, the easing of tension and for all efforts to be made to avoid any type of violence," said UNHCR official Margaritis Petritzakis, without getting into specifics.

Erdogan will travel to Brussels on Monday to meet with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about a 2016 Turkey-EU agreement on containing the refugee flows to Europe that has now collapsed. Each side has blamed the other. A EU spokesman said the crisis in Syria and security and stability in the region would also be discussed.

The deal called for Turkey to halt the flow of Europe-bound migrants and refugees in exchange for up to 6 billion euros (\$6.7 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees on its territory, fast-track EU membership and visa-free travel to Europe for Turkish citizens.

"I hope that we will return from Brussels with a different result," Erdogan said.

Erdogan has demanded that Europe shoulder more of the burden of caring for refugees, accusing the EU of failing to disburse the money. He announced that Turkey, which already houses more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees, would no longer be Europe's gatekeeper.

EU foreign ministers have criticized Turkey, saying it is using the migrants' desperation "for political purposes." EU countries are still dealing with the political fallout from a wave of mass migration five years ago. □

North Macedonia police discover 56 migrants in truck

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP) — Police in North Macedonia discovered 56 migrants during a routine search of a truck and arrested the driver on suspicion of belonging to a trafficking ring that brought them in from Greece, authorities said Sunday.

The incident took place late Saturday in the town of Gevgelija, near the border with Greece, about 160

kilometers (100 miles) south of the capital, Skopje, late Saturday. The truck driver was identified as a 46-year-old Macedonian national. The migrants, 54 Pakistanis and two Afghans, are expected to be transferred to a detention center in Gevgelija pending deportation back to Greece.

North Macedonia has increased patrols on the border with Greece, after Tur-

key opened its border last week to outgoing migrants. Caretaker Prime Minister Oliver Spasovski said Sunday that North Macedonia will resist any attempts by migrants to cross the border.

"We will have zero tolerance and we will not allow entry of migrants, because this is the policy of all states in the region," Spasovski said. □

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MH17 relatives protest against Russia with 298 empty chairs

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The families of people killed when a missile shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014 set out 298 white chairs outside the Russian Embassy on Sunday in a silent protest against Moscow's lack of cooperation in the investigation into the downing of the passenger jet.

The chairs — laid out in rows like seats in an airplane — represented the victims who died when a Buk missile fired from territory held by pro-Russia separatist rebels shot down the Amsterdam-to-Kuala Lumpur flight on July 17, 2014, killing everybody on board. The families stood in silence for two minutes after arranging the chairs and signs including one that read: "Impunity = unacceptable! Someone knows what happened ... Justice for MH17." The protest came on the eve of a Dutch trial for three Russians and a Ukrainian charged with murders for their alleged roles in the missile strike.

Russia denies involvement and has dismissed the international investigation that led to the four suspects being charged, saying it is prejudiced against Moscow. Relatives accuse Russian authorities of seeking to hide the facts about exactly what happened. Piet Ploeg, who lost his brother, Alex, his sister-in-law and his nephew, said families weren't accusing Russia of downing the Boeing 777.

"But we are having a protest against the lack of cooperation of the Russian state in the investigation of the downing of MH17. And we want them to cooperate and stop obstructing the investigations."

In Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused investigators of presuming Russia's guilt before the court hearing opens Monday and launching a "media campaign" to support the case and whitewash alleged gaps in the evidence. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo noted: "All of those indicted are members of Russia-led forces in eastern Ukraine," and called on Moscow "to cease its continuing aggressive and destabilizing activities in Ukraine."

Families are convinced Russia knows — and is blocking — the truth.

"What we're doing here today, this is truly us making a silent statement to somebody who may have the answers," said Lucas Schansman, whose nephew Quinn — a joint Dutch-American citizen — was among the dead.

The Joint Investigation Team last year named four suspects: Russians Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko. None of them is expected to attend the start of the trial Monday in a courtroom near Schiphol, the Amsterdam airport from which the doomed flight took off.

Neither Russia nor Ukraine extradites its citizens. Russia

and pro-Russia separatists continued to deny involvement, even after prosecutors alleged that the Buk missile system which destroyed the passenger plane was transported into Ukraine from the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade's base in Kursk and the launching system was then returned to Russia.

The team examined the wreckage and body parts, questioned witnesses and experts, studied radar and satellite images and analyzed data and intercepted communications before indicting the four suspects. Investigators said last year there was "almost daily telephone contact" between the self-proclaimed leaders of the pro-Russia rebel Donetsk People's Republic "and their contacts in the Russian Federation" using secure phones provided by the Russian security service.

The five nations that make up the international team — Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, Ukraine and the Netherlands — signed a deal Sunday extending their cooperation.

"The prolongation ensures the investigation into the downing of MH17 continues unabated and in parallel with the trial of the four suspects," Dutch prosecutors said in a statement. Families are hoping the trial, expected to last for more than a year, will shed definitive light on exactly what happened.

"The really important thing is that the truth comes out, because the truth has been



Rob Fredriksz, who lost his son Bryce and his girlfriend Daisy, places a sign next to 298 empty chairs, each chair for one of the 298 victims of the downed Malaysia Air flight MH17, placed in a park opposite the Russian embassy in The Hague, Netherlands, Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Associated Press

in short supply over the last five and a half years," said Jon O'Brien, who flew to the Netherlands from Syd-

ney, Australia, with his wife Meryn to watch the trial. Their son, Jack, was among those killed on MH17. □

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Thai judge who alleged interference dies in 2nd suicide bid

By **BUSABA SIVASOMBOON**

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Police in Thailand say a judge who shot himself last year to publicize alleged interference in his work has died after what was apparently a second suicide attempt.

Police Maj. Sathitchai Nitayawan in the northern province of Chiang Mai said that Khanakorn Pianchana died in a hospital after apparently shooting himself in the chest Saturday morning.

Khanakorn had posted a letter on his Facebook page several hours before his death complaining that he was being persecuted after his suicide attempt in October last year.

He was moved from his post as a lower court judge in the southern province of Yala and reassigned to Chiang Mai. His letter said he feared he would lose his position as a judge and face criminal charges related to his first suicide attempt.

That incident drew great attention because of his allegations that he had been pressured to change his verdicts in some politically charged cases related to a long-running Muslim separatist insurgency in Thailand's southernmost provinces.

He had shot himself in the chest with a pistol in his Yala courtroom after acquitting five defendants of murder and firearms charges that could have condemned three to death.

A 25-page statement attributed to him that circulated online after that incident accused his superiors of trying to force him to change the verdicts to guilty. Supervising judges are allowed to see lower court rulings before they are issued — one of Khanakorn's major complaints.

Khanakorn's statement made several references to the south's security situation. He said that confessions obtained from alleged insurgents in harsh conditions of detention were not convincing evidence — a point frequently raised by rights activists, who have accused the army of using torture.

Court officials after the October incident blamed personal stress for Khanakorn's action and denied undue influence on verdicts.

Thailand's court system has long been criticized, generally over charges of corruption but more recently for an allegedly political bias. Previous attempts to reform the judiciary have been bitterly resisted, and the courts still spurn most criticism.

In cases since 2006, supporters of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and pro-democracy activists opposed to military interference in politics often believed they were unfairly targeted for prosecution by the courts, which are seen as allies of Thailand's traditional royalist-military ruling establishment.

"I believe that I will certainly be punished and fired from my job," Khanakorn declared in his latest online letter, which declared this his "body and mind cannot bear the feeling of utmost grief."

"To my friends, relatives and the Thai people, I assure you that everything I have done, I did with a clear conscience and I do not regret it," he wrote. "I am proud to be a part of a movement in bringing justice to the people."

His note also included a plea for people to donate to a bank account to help provide for the education of his daughter. □



Rescuers work at the site of a collapsed five-story hotel building in Quanzhou city in southeast China's Fujian province Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Associated Press

10 dead, 23 missing as hotel in China virus fight collapses

BEIJING (AP) — At least 10 people were killed in the collapse of Chinese hotel that was being used to isolate people who had arrived from other parts of China hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak, authorities said Sunday.

The sudden collapse of the building in the southeastern city of Quanzhou on Saturday evening trapped 71 people, China's Ministry of Emergency Management said.

The ministry said that 38 had been rescued and 23 were still missing. Most of the rescued were taken to hospitals for treatment, some with serious injuries.

The cause of the collapse was under investigation, and the owner of the building was put under police control, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Two retail spaces on the first floor of the seven-story building were undergoing remodeling, and a pillar reportedly deformed a few minutes before the collapse, Xinhua said, quoting a housing and development official.

Built in 2013, the building was later converted to a 66-room hotel that opened in June 2018, Quanzhou authorities said. The coastal city is in Fujian province, across the Taiwan Strait from the island of Taiwan.

The city said that 58 people from epidemic-hit areas were staying at the Xinjia Hotel for medical observation.

All had tested negative for the virus. Most Chinese cities are isolating people coming from Hubei province, where the disease is most widespread, for 14

days.

Hotel workers and employees of an auto shop in the building were also inside at the time of the collapse.

More than 1,000 firefighters and seven rescue dogs were dispatched to the site, according to the Ministry of Emergency Management. News photos showed rescue workers with lights bringing out people, some bloodied by the collapse. Rubble could be seen on cars in front of the building. China, where the new virus first emerged in December, has confirmed more than 80,000 cases, about 75 percent of the global total. More than 3,000 people have died in China. Most of the cases have been in Wuhan, an inland city in Hubei province about 670 kilometers (475 miles) north-west of Quanzhou. □

Scores detained at women's rally in Kyrgyzstan

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in the capital of Kyrgyzstan have detained about 60 people after an unauthorized rally to mark International Women's Day was broken up by a group of men.

The disorder took place Sunday at a main square in

Bishkek.

Demonstrators gathered for a rally to express support for women's and children's rights, but unidentified males barged into the gathering. Bishkek police said people from both sides were detained, but news reports said the detainees

were primarily women.

The Akipress news agency cited lawyer Bakytbek Aftandil as saying those detained were released several hours later and that about 10 of them had been charged with resisting police, which carries a fine of 3000 soms (\$70). □



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In Uganda, a peace festival seeks end to violence in Africa

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Young people played tug of war and others shook their bodies to crowd-pleasing music as a scorching African sun set near the Ugandan capital. A tipsy poet drew loud cheers by repeatedly reciting "One day. Someday. Could be this day."

Others painted their faces, ate barbecued goat, played chess and practiced yoga. The good-natured gathering attracted scores of people in support of the day when all of Africa would be free of armed violence.

The Mara Mara peace festival drew inspiration from the African Union's declaration of 2020 as the year for "silencing the guns" on a continent that has long faced violence ranging from civil war to ethnic rivalries and rebel insurgencies. In an effort to reduce the number of illegal weapons in circulation across the continent, the AU has said there will be an amnesty during the month of September when illegally-owned guns can be turned over to local authorities.

Leaders of the African Union, a continent-wide bloc that is often accused of not doing enough to end armed violence, have said it will reach out to youths to discourage them from taking up arms.

Africa still has multiple conflict zones ranging from Islamic extremist violence in West Africa's Sahel region and in parts of Nigeria to armed rebellion by militias in eastern Congo. In South Sudan, the world's newest country, hundreds of thousands of people were killed and over 1 million displaced by a five-year civil

war that officially ended in 2018, but still simmers. That conflict has created Africa's worst refugee crisis since the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Africa Peace Zones, a network of volunteers who organized the weekend peace gathering in Uganda in support of the AU's mission, acknowledged the task at hand as "ambitious," citing challenges including gender-based violence, unemployment and climate change. "And while sustainable solutions will require actions from a cross-section of society, we believe that as Africa's young people, we hold the key to building a continent free of all violence," the group said in a statement. "Some of Africa's strongest attributes — tolerance, kindness, generosity, resilience, problem solving and a team spirit — are the very foundation of negotiation, mediation and reconciliation as alternatives to violence."

Uganda has enjoyed relative peace for nearly 20 years, since the end of a deadly rebellion in the country's north. But the East African country has had spots of political violence, with the security forces accused of cracking down on opposition activities. President Yoweri Museveni has been in power since 1986 and is trying to extend his rule further, prompting concerns about possible violence around elections in 2021. Young Ugandans such as William Musinguzi, a painter at the festival who drew a map of Africa with the red spots indicating those countries battling insurgencies and civil war, cite mistrust of authorities with guns. The 25-year-old

noted with pleasure that there were no police at the event, saying that meant peace. For Gerry Ssebunya, a dance instructor and mental health advocate whose family was affected by war in northern Uganda, peace festivals are a "fantastic way" to reach out to young people in need of sense of communion. □



In this photo taken Saturday, March 7, 2020, Ugandans take part in painting activities during the Mara Mara peace festival in Kampala, Uganda.

Associated Press



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AP Explains: Mexican women to march against gender violence

By **AMY GUTHRIE**
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Protests against gender violence in Mexico have intensified in recent years amid an increase in killings of women and girls. The killings are often accompanied by sexual assault and sometimes grisly mutilations. Women are expected to express their outrage in a march in Mexico City on Sunday, International Women's Day. Smaller demonstrations will be held across the country. Women and girls also plan to hold protests on Monday. Mexican women are being urged to skip school, shun housework and stay home from work to show the country what it's like to go one day without them.



In this Feb. 18, 2020 file photo, women protest against gender violence in front of the presidential office and residence, in Mexico City.

Associated Press

WHY ARE THEY MARCHING?

Government statistics show that more than 10 females are slain on average every day in Mexico, making it one of the most danger-

ous countries in the world for girls and women. As recently as 2017 an average of seven women were killed each day in Mexico. "The context of violence

against women and against girls in Mexico is especially grave," said Nira Cárdenas, coordinator of the gender unit at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico.

In addition to half the population being at high risk of violence, impunity is a major problem. Few reported crimes in Mexico result in convictions.

Participation in the annual march on Sunday is expected to be higher than during previous marches as a broader swath of society joins the families of the killed and missing who frequently take to the streets, accompanied by feminists and activists.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

A series of recent, highly publicized murders in Mexico has led to more debate and calls for protests against gender violence.

The ex-wife of an influential technology entrepreneur was shot to death in November after testifying in a child custody case. A young woman was skinned and disemboweled, allegedly by her boyfriend, in February. Days later, a seven-year-old was kidnapped outside her elementary school and sexually abused — the child's lifeless body disposed of in

a plastic bag found in an empty lot.

The victims shared a history of abuse in their households, and failings by Mexican authorities.

A contingent of mothers of victims will march together Sunday in a show of sorority and tears.

"We want to give a hug not just to those who are no longer physically here with us, but also to each and all of those women who will soon become part of our family (of victims)," said Araceli Osorio, mother of Lesvy Berlín, who was strangled to death by a boyfriend on the campus of Latin America's largest university in 2017.

WHAT IS MEXICO DOING ABOUT THE PROBLEM?

Mexico has aggressive legislation for punishing violent crimes against women. The deficit comes in the application of the law.

"Mexico is the country of rights on paper," says Ana Pecova, director of advocacy group EQUIS Justice for Women.

Since 2011, murders of Mexican women that carry signs of hatred for the gender, such as mutilation, have come with a stiffer minimum sentence than regular homicides. Congress increased the femicide sentence once

again in February, to 65 years, and passed a constitutional amendment last year that allows for preventive detention for those accused of domestic violence for a second time. The majority of women killed in Mexico are targeted by their own partners.

Authorities often lack the tools, motivation and capability to investigate crimes, leading family members of victims to pursue the cases themselves. Several mothers complain that their missing girls were initially dismissed as runaways and their killings wrongly ruled suicides.

SOME PROTESTS BECOME ROWDY. WHY?

A women's protest in February became rowdy, following a pattern of street outrage in the past. A masked protester tried to set fire to a wooden door of the presidential palace while others drenched it with red paint. Destruction of public property has become a mainstay of feminist protests in Mexico City since a small group trashed a bus station, police precinct and a major monument in August in disgust over the city's bungling of an alleged rape by police of a teenager. The vandalism drew heavy criticism.

The vandals argue that women are more important than statues or broken windows, which can be repaired. A woman whose life is cut short by violence never returns, they say.

"We ask ourselves all the time: What else can we do?" said Cárdenas.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The grass roots movement for a nationwide strike by women on Monday was inspired in part by similar actions in countries such as Argentina and Chile.

"We have to say: Enough already," said María de la Luz Estrada, coordinator of the National Citizen's Observatory of Femicide. "We're calling for the rule of law to work. They have to guarantee the integrity of the lives of every male and female." □

Argentina announces first coronavirus death in Latin America

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A 64-year-old man died in Argentina as a result of the new coronavirus, the first such death in Latin America, health authorities announced Saturday.

The Ministry of Health said the patient lived in Buenos Aires and had been confirmed with COVID-19 after coming down with a cough, fever and sore throat following a recent trip to Europe.

The patient, who suffered kidney failure, had a history of diabetes, hypertension and bronchitis before being infected with the virus, a statement said. He had been in intensive care since being admitted to a public hospital Wednesday.

Officials said the man was not one of the eight confirmed COVID-19 cases previously reported for Argentina, but his case was confirmed by tests Satur-

day. Research is underway to determine who the patient had been in contact with, authorities said.

Elsewhere in the region, officials in Peru announced five new cases of COVID-19 infection Saturday, raising the country's total to six. Paraguay reported its first case, and Chile said it now had seven confirmed cases, up from five.

Costa Rica's Health Ministry confirmed four new cases of coronavirus, in addition to that of a case involving an American woman announced Friday. Her husband was among the new cases.

Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia also have reported confirmed cases of the new coronavirus.

According to the latest official data, there are more than 101,000 infected worldwide and more than 3,400 deaths. □

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ORANJESTAD — As the official Destination Management and Marketing Organization (DMMO) for Aruba, the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) is responsible for coordinating Aruba's destination marketing, destination development, and destination partnerships. The A.T.A. continuously strives to place Aruba one step ahead of its competitors in an effort to promote Aruba as the preferred Caribbean destination for both current and potential visitors.

With a clear view of what they aspire Aruba to be, the A.T.A. has set the positioning and development of Aruba as a desirable and sustainable destination as its clear-cut vision. The A.T.A. strives to achieve this vision by functioning as an innovative and agile company that drives prosperity for Aruba through sustainable tourism.

In accordance with the A.T.A.'s vision for the future, A.T.A. has launched the 'Code of Conduct' awareness campaign. The Code of Conduct serves to encourage both locals and visitors alike to behave themselves in a sustainable manner in an effort to ensure that our 'One Happy Island' is preserved and protected for the generations to come/the future generation. Hereby, the A.T.A. aims to promote controlled growth in

ways that contribute to the community's economic, social, and environmental well-being while also catering to the needs of our visitors. In order to materialize the Code of Conduct, A.T.A. also introduced the 'My Promise to Aruba' campaign. The goal behind this is to encourage both locals and visitors to pledge to acting kind and responsible while visiting Aruba by not bringing any harm and destruction to themselves, our natural environment, our cultural heritage and our happy people.

When making their promise to Aruba, both locals and visitors are pre-

sented with a list of 'house rules' that guide their commitment to Aruba. These house rules include various do's and don'ts that touch bases on various topics such as the protection and preservation of the island's flora and fauna, showing respect for the local culture and heritage, and portraying a 'One Happy Island' behavior by being kind and respectful.

The A.T.A. encourages both locals and visitors to make their promise to Aruba and hereby contribute to the achievement of a sustainable form of tourism on the island. Make your pledge today and share it on

social media. With your contribution to our Code of Conduct, our 'One Happy Island' is protected and preserved for generations to come.

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The future economy of the Caribbean



By Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

ORANJESTAD — Many Caribbean economies find themselves already in a difficult situation with low growth, high debt, fiscal deficits, and low domestic private sector investments. Because of the current developments around the spread of the novel coronavirus around the world, economies worldwide will be dealing with an unfore-

seen shock. While action is taken to contain and mitigate the outbreak, a global recession is likely, and the Caribbean will also be affected. Global recessions are known to have an impact over a two-year period. Now is the time to be prepared for what comes thereafter.

worry everything will be alright" is not realistic. Surrealism is an art form and not a form of socio-economic development. Whenever these kinds of comforting phrases are used, they should be placed under the sub-category "Social work in the economy".

January 23, 2020 - Caribbean Travel Marketplace: "The record-breaking feats made by the Caribbean in 2019 are expected to continue into 2020, the Caribbean's two major tourism advocacy organizations, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), have predicted," a media report reads.

The greatest peril for any government, organization, business and its executives is: "Not knowing, what you don't know!" Does that sound crazy? It isn't! Let me explain. If you know what you don't know, you shop for it and get the information somewhere, then update it, and act accordingly. If you don't know what you don't know, it means that something is developing beyond your horizon or radar screen that may have an impact on you sooner or later. You may be in danger of losing control or subject to taking fatalities into account. But, not knowing what you don't know could also be rephrased into "You don't know what you're missing, or you don't know what's ahead!" Explore for dangers as well as opportunities.

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

By now, we are probably agreeing that we live in a time of uncertainty. What is the problem that really may affect us? It is not the infamous virus outbreak! It causes a chain reaction and a crack in the image. What part of the chain reaction may affect us? At this time, we already need to look ahead and beyond what is happening in the next months or even next years.

Source markets and consumers will make adjustments to their situation over the coming months. Where these adjustments have worked, they're not likely to change in the future. The ways of looking at expenditures and travel behavior may change. One must be ready to respond to the market and the best way is to offer a new concept, new products or services that differ from what was offered before the downturn situation. Patterns of consumer behavior of the

tourism and travel clientele abroad will change. Don't try sidetracking by "yes, but..." or "well, oh...". What solutions will we come up with? Are we able to respond well to changes in market behavior?

Are the Caribbean economy models aging? Yes, in a combination of probabilistic aging and proximal aging. Please don't let me get into explaining what that means, just trust me. It does sound quite bad, doesn't it? Rejuvenation is what is needed, and it should result in youthful vigor and appearance. Rejuvenation is a repair of damage that is associated with aging or replacement of damaged components with new components. Refreshment and innovations are needed in the economy and its prevailing industry, tourism. Actually, the rejuvenation is more about how we do things throughout the industry including transportation, travel and hospitality.

We are all somehow in the

business of making money, benefits, profit, salary, etc. Did you know that the pay-off of innovation is the highest where the uncertainty is the highest? Isn't that great to hear in a time of uncertainty? Innovation has been defined as "Change that creates a new dimension of performance." I'll subscribe to that. Dare to think differently about the economy and business can be changed. How things can be done smarter. Daring to think beyond the conventional way of thought is part of the recipe. Change is better than more of the same. However, the common belief is still that if something merely smells new it should be called innovation. In some cases that would imply that changing underwear is an innovation.

Here is something to think about and it is not even an innovation: The biggest market for the Caribbean might be the Caribbean itself. □



About the author. Cdr. Bud Slabbaert is the Chairman and Coordinator of the Caribbean Aviation Meetup, an annual results and solution oriented conference for stakeholders of 'airlift' in the Caribbean which will be held June 16-18 on St. Maarten. Mr. Slabbaert's background is accentuated by aviation business development, strategic communication, and journalism.



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For today's newspaper we received two great pictures from **Sue Tedesco, Saratoga Springs – NY.**

She wrote:

Aruba to me fun and friendship and sharing the love of travel to the Happiest Island on earth. Every year!



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Saturday at 8:00pm
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Sunday at 8:00pm
Aruba Has Talent

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129 years of marriage in two couples



The best location to celebrate any anniversary is here in Aruba and so did Tuke and Florence celebrating their 66th Marriage anniversary, 3rd and 4th from right to left. Joined by Jim and Joanne and also celebrating 63 years of happy marriage on the happy beach here in Aruba. What a big blessings and we all wish these two couples many more years of happiness and good health.

Yes, I feel sad



There are great hobbies that we have here in Aruba and that's fishing and watersports. Yes, I like soccer and baseball too but fishing is like in our genes. Nine days ago a very experienced fisherman Pau Martijn went fishing at Baho, that's about one and a half hour south of Aruba and till today he is lost at sea. Let's pray and hope that the rescue team will find him.

Algemene Rekenkamer in Oranjestad



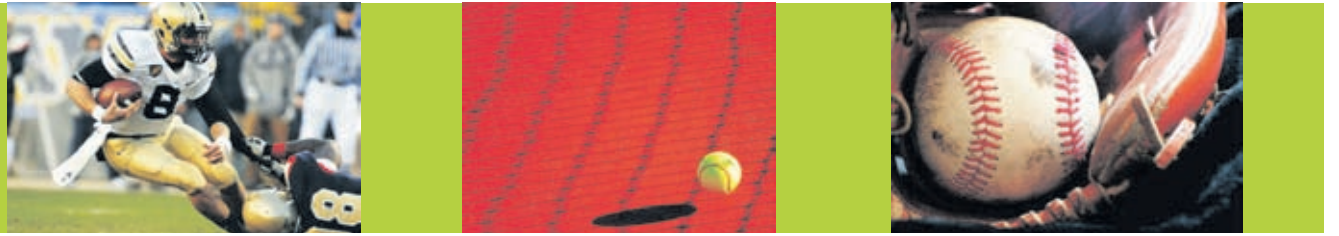
I do like the façades of the Dutch architecture and this can be seen all over in Oranjestad. Buildings like the Algemene Rekenkamer (Court of Audit) and also the Amsterdam Manor Resort do have this style of design. Don't leave Aruba without a walk in the downtown area and appreciate all this Dutch architecture in Oranjestad. We do have a free tram that will take you thru the whole downtown so take my word and sure you will learn a lot of our downtown history.

Drone photo of Palm Beach



The first hotel in the area was the Hotel Basi-Ruti and was built in 1947 just after WW2. From then the tourist industry started and now this area is totally developed. Morning walks at Palm Beach is just amazing and you can start from Fisherman's hut and walk the whole beach strip and then join the Eagle Beach. Just between La Cabana and Phoenix you must skip the rocks.

SPORTS



Carolina Hurricanes' Morgan Geekie, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring his first goal in the NHL during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Pittsburgh.
Associated Press

Hurricanes hammer listless Penguins 6-2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Morgan Geekie didn't have time to think. On Saturday he was in the minors. By Sunday afternoon the newest Carolina Hurricanes forward found himself thrust in the middle of the playoff race. The 21-year-old rookie hardly looked overwhelmed by the moment. Neither did his team. Geekie scored twice and dished out an assist in his NHL debut, a 6-2 victory over listless Pittsburgh that capped a frantic 24 hours for the 2017 third-round pick. He arrived in town late Saturday night after being called up from the American Hockey League. By the middle of the first period, he'd already had his first NHL goal then added an exclamation point in the third period to cap a dominant performance by the Hurricanes.

Continued on page 22

DESERT DELIGHT



Logano wins his second race in 3 weeks

Joey Logano celebrates in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Avondale, Ariz.

Holiday has 37 points help Pelicans top Timberwolves 120-107

By DAVE CAMPBELL

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The New Orleans Pelicans have perked up since the debut of Zion Williamson.

The presence of Jrue Holiday, though, can't be discounted in their improvement.

Holiday just missed his second triple-double against Minnesota in less than a week, putting up a season-high 37 points and adding nine rebounds and eight assists for the Pelicans in a 120-107 victory over the Timberwolves on Sunday.

"Jrue was incredible today. These performances from him have been coming a lot lately," said Williamson, who scored 23 points on 9-for-15 shooting. "It was one of those games where, we need a bucket to get the momentum back, he was there."

Lonzo Ball had 18 points and eight assists, and Brandon Ingram pitched in 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the Pelicans start a four-game trip with the victory.

Malik Beasley had 21 points and nine rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell scored 19 points for the Timberwolves. They got 42 points from their reserves.

Still harboring an outside shot at the playoffs, the Pelicans passed Portland for 10th place in the Western Conference and pulled within four games of eighth-place Memphis with Sacramento in ninth place. The Pelicans are 11-7 over their last 20 games and have won 15 of their last 18 games against opponents with losing records.

Even the defense has enjoyed an uptick following Williamson's debut after the super-sized, super-skilled rookie missed more than half of the season recovering from knee surgery. New Orleans held the Timberwolves to 22 fewer points than in its 139-134 defeat at home five days ago. Holiday had 27 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists in that game. This was his fourth 30-point performance of the season. In three matchups with the Wolves this season, he's

averaging more than 27 points.

"When they made their push, we got stops, and we got some big stops, and the momentum shift went the other way," Holiday said. "We didn't want to happen what happened last time." Williamson's first appearance in Minnesota and the matinee tipoff time contributing to a sellout crowd of 18,978, the two highest-scoring teams in the NBA over the four-plus-week span since the trade deadline on Feb. 6 did not disappoint for action.

Williamson took all of 16 seconds to assert himself, bullishly driving into the lane with little impediment on the first possession and throwing down a two-handed slam. The 19-year-

old and first overall pick in the draft had four dunks in the first 7 1/2 minutes of the game, including two off perfect lob passes from Ball that came during a 21-4 spurt by the Pelicans covering barely more than four minutes. The first alley-oop from Ball traveled almost three-quarters of the court. The Wolves surged right back with a 17-3 run. Just a half-minute later, Jake Layman's soaring slam over Derrick Favors had the players on the bench beside themselves with glee.

"It was a great pass by D-Lo, and I knew I could beat Zion off the dribble," Layman said. "But the loss is more what I'm thinking about right now."

The Wolves were tied half-way through the second



New Orleans Pelicans' Jrue Holiday, center, shoots ball over Minnesota Timberwolves' Juancho Hernangomez in the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

quarter, but they were never able to get in front and fell behind by as many as 20 points after halftime. They finished just 8 for 33 from long range.

"We got a lot of great looks. It happens in the NBA, but we can't let that dictate the whole game. We've got to make sure we defend still," Beasley said. □

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Hatton hangs on to win Bay Hill for 1st PGA Tour title

By DOUG FERGUSON

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tyrrell Hatton felt the Arnold Palmer Invitational slipping away Sunday, perhaps unaware that everyone else trying to survive another brutal test at Bay Hill was feeling the same way.

He gave the wrong kind of salute to the 11th hole when he walked off the green after a double bogey cut his lead to one shot. It looked as though he was about to lose his mind.

Instead, he won the tournament with clutch play amid high stress, closing with seven straight pars for a 2-over 74 and a one-shot victory over Marc Leishman.

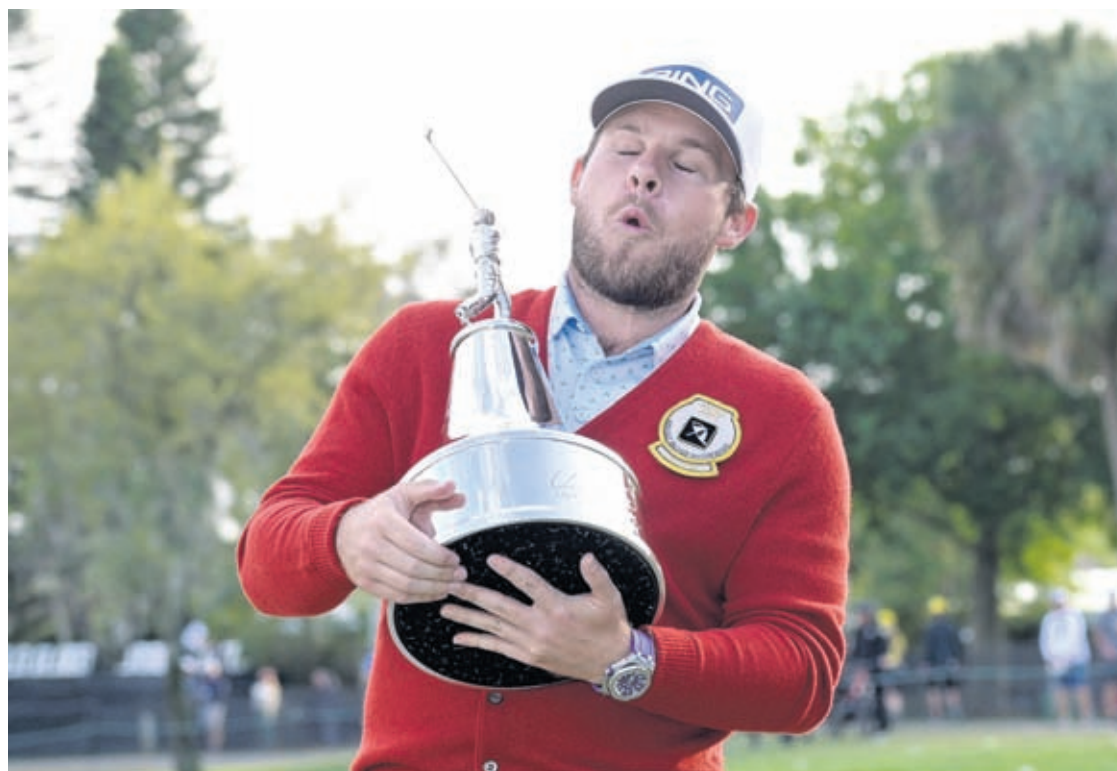
"The hardest thing for me today was trying to keep myself level-headed," Hatton said. "Obviously, there was a few times where I did boil over a little bit, but nothing compared to what I've been like in the past. I feel like with how tough it was — for me — I did a good job."

He was even better with the clubs in his hands.

The 8-iron out of ankle-deep rough over the water to a front pin on No. 13. Par saves from off the back of the green on the 14th and 15th holes because the greens were so brittle they wouldn't hold anything. The best of all was his 5-iron to 25 feet on the par-3 17th for another par, a satisfying score on this day.

Bay Hill served up the most demanding test this side of a major, and Hatton kept it together down the stretch Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory, and his fifth worldwide.

The only time he choked was when he took a gulp of



Tyrrell Hatton, of England, reacts to the weight of the championship trophy after posing for photos with it after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Ketel One vodka — Palmer's favorite drink — during a toast to the King. Palmer would have loved to see this struggle, and Hatton's performance over the final hour was regal.

Leishman (73) stayed on his heels and said to caddie Matt Kelly walking up the par-5 16th, "Of all the courses on the PGA Tour, this is the last one you'd pick if you had a two-shot lead with three to go." He then birdied the 16th to get within one. He closed with two pars. It still wasn't enough.

"Tyrrell never gave up," Leishman said. "He did what he needed to on a really, really tough course."

It was Hatton's fifth victory worldwide, and first on the PGA Tour, and it came in just his second start since returning from surgery on his right wrist during the off-

season.

But the 28-year-old Englishman could only smile when he tapped in a 3-foot par putt on the 18th.

Hatton finished at 4-under 284, one of only four players who beat par for the week, the fewest at Bay Hill since 1980. So severe was the course that Matt Fitzpatrick closed with a 69 and was the only player to break 70 on the weekend. Rory McIlroy, one shot behind going into the final round, had a 76 for his highest closing round since a 76 in the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion. He was done in by a double bogey on the par-5 sixth when his 90-yard bunker shot went over the green and against the rocks framing the lake, and another double bogey on the ninth when his tee shot went out-of-bounds left

onto the practice range.

"I stood up here yesterday saying that the key tomorrow was to keep the big numbers off your card, and I made two of those today," McIlroy said. "And that's what cost me."

He still tied for fifth, his eighth consecutive top 5 worldwide dating to late September.

Sungjae Im, trying to become the first player since David Duval in 1997 to win his first two PGA Tour titles in consecutive weeks, was there with a chance until he came up shockingly short and into the water on the 13th for a double bogey.

Trouble was everywhere, and Hatton eventually found it.

He had a three-shot lead when he drove into the water on the par-4 11th

into the wind, went well over the green with his third shot, chipped short of the putting surface and had to make a 6-footer for a double bogey.

The gestures, the temper, it was all on display. And it didn't calm down when he eliminated a good birdie opportunity on the par-5 12th and then sent his tee shot on the 13th into the rough.

"I was getting frustrated at times, but nowhere near the blowups that I am capable of," Hatton said with a smile. "And it's just one of those days where you just got to stick in there, and patience is one of the hardest things with me."

Im closed with a 73 to finish alone in third, followed by Bryson DeChambeau, who shot 32 on the back nine for a 71.

Joel Dahmen didn't have a round better than 71 all week, and that was on Sunday. He never had a chance to win. And he still tied for fifth, earning one of three spots into the British Open this summer.

How to celebrate that?

"I think maybe just lay on the couch after this one," Dahmen said. "It's exhausting, and I'm happy I'm done."

Keith Mitchell (71) and Danny Lee (75) also earned exemptions to the Open at Royal St. George's.

The scoring average Sunday was 75.06, the toughest final round at Bay Hill since 1983. Hatton's 284 was the highest score to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational since it began in 1979.

But he was a winner. And that made him very happy. □

Ernie Els wins Hoag Classic for 1st PGA Tour Champions title

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP) —

Ernie Els won the Hoag Classic on Sunday for his first PGA Tour Champions title, birdieing par-5 15th and 18th holes for a two-stroke victory at Newport Beach Country Club.

Making his third senior start, the 50-year-old Hall of Famer from South Africa closed with a 4-un-

der 67 to finish at 16-under 197. He opened with a 66 and shot 64 on Saturday.

Els lost a playoff to Miguel Angel Jimenez in his debut in the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship in Hawaii, then tied for 34th last week in the Co-loguard Classic in Arizona.

Fellow Hall of Famer Fred Cou-

ples, trying to win the event from the third time at age 60, finished with a 66 to tie for second with Glen Day and Robert Karlsson. Couples, also part of the playoff in Hawaii, parred the final six holes, chunking a chip on 18 to squander a good birdie try.

Day birdied Nos. 14-17 to take the lead at 15 under, then bo-

geyed the 18th for a 64.

Karlsson bogeyed the 16th and parred the last two in a 66.

Defending Charles Schwab Cup champion Scott McCarron was fifth at 13 under after a 69. Monday qualifier David Morland IV had a 71 to tie for seventh at 11 under. He opened with a 61. □

Logano holds off Harvick in NASCAR Cup race at Phoenix

By DAVID BRANDT

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Joey Logano raved all weekend about the new "Awesome Sauce" at Phoenix Raceway, which was the driver's nickname for the substance that was put on the mile oval to improve grip for tires and make for better racing.

The sauce did its job during an entertaining show Sunday and so did Logano, who raced to his second NASCAR Cup Series win in three weeks by holding off Kevin Harvick during a two-lap overtime restart.

"That was a pretty intense last 30 minutes or hour of the race. A lot going on," Logano said. "Couldn't be more proud of this team. Two wins already in the books. We got to keep this thing rocking."

Also the winner two weeks ago in Las Vegas for Team Penske, Logano has 25 career Cup victories. He overcame several tough moments, including a pit-road penalty for an uncontrolled tire and a broken jack during another stop.

A late caution triggered the two-lap overtime shootout with Logano, Harvick and Kyle Busch all in a decent position to win. Logano had a good restart at the mile oval and was able to hold off Harvick. Busch was third, Kyle Larson finished fourth and Clint Bowyer was fifth.

"Really cool to be able to race clean and hard, it's a lot of fun," Logano said. "Kevin is one of the best racers who has every strapped into a race car and a stock

car in particular. He's a Hall of Famer, to say the least. When you line up against him at the end of the race you know it's going to be a heck of a battle."

Pole-sitter Chase Elliott and Harvick dominated the first half of the race but Elliott had to make a green-flag stop because of a loose front tire and fell a lap behind the leaders. He eventually earned a free pass to get back on the lead lap and finished seventh.

On top of the improved track surface, the Phoenix race was the first under NASCAR's new rules package for short tracks, which included a significantly smaller rear spoiler. The hope was all the changes would make for more passing and excitement during the race.

The tweaks seemed to have their desired effect. There were 20 lead changes and plenty of passing and contact back in the pack. Phoenix also is the site of the Cup Series championship in November.

"Hats off to NASCAR for collaborating with the teams, the track and putting on a way better race than what we saw here last year," Logano said.

Elliott started on the pole while Harvick — who has won nine times in Phoenix — also was on the front row. Elliott led the first 61 laps of the race before Harvick beat him off pit road following the first caution. Harvick had his fourth top 10 finish in four races, but was disappointed he



Joey Logano takes the checkered flag to win a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

couldn't get past Logano at the end.

"Joey was just good enough to run a couple laps there and get where I needed to be on track position," Harvick said.

Cole Custer was the highest finishing rookie in ninth place.

BAD LUCK FOR BLANEY

An early wreck involved three of the front-runners, including Brad Keselowski, Denny Hamlin and Ryan Blaney. Hamlin's Toyota made contact with the left rear of Keselowski's Ford as they were fighting for position following a restart. The collision left Blaney with nowhere to go and all three ended up with at least minor damage after sliding up into the wall. Keselowski and Hamlin were able to

stay in the race but Blaney's car was too heavily damaged to continue.

Keselowski was able to recover and eventually led 82 laps before settling for a 11th-place finish.

Hamlin won the Daytona 500 three weeks ago and also won at Phoenix in November, but finished 20th on Sunday. It was a bit of bad luck for Blaney, who was the Cup points leader coming into the race and agreed to a multiyear extension with Team Penske on Friday. He finished 37th. "It stinks we get taken out early like that, but that's just part of it," Blaney said.

Blaney fell to sixth in the overall points standings following the race. Harvick is the new leader with Logano in second.

TRUEX STARTS FROM THE BACK

Martin Truex Jr. had to start from the back of the 38-car field because of an engine change before Sunday's race. He initially qualified 12th. John Hunter Nemechek also had to drop to the back row because of a radiator change. He had qualified 26th.

Truex was able to recover quickly and was among the leaders — even leading 11 laps — until he hit the wall while in heavy traffic on a restart late in the race. He finished 32nd.

UP NEXT

The Cup series heads cross-country to Atlanta Motor Speedway. Keselowski has won two of the past three races in Atlanta, including last year. □

Timbers score early for 1-0 win over Nashville SC

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Diego Valeri scored an early goal and the Portland Timbers beat expansion Nashville SC 1-0 on Sunday.

Valeri scored in the 12th minute, with a volley to the far corner off a header from Andy Polo.

The match came as Nashville recovers from tornadoes that killed 24 people and caused massive damage in middle Tennessee last week.

Fans at the game displayed a large banner that said "Rose City (heart) Music City." Players on both sides wore badges on their jerseys with the initials NGUOY, for Never Give Up In You. The jerseys were to be auctioned after the game with the proceeds going to the recovery effort. The Timbers also pledged \$15 of every general admission ticket sold to tornado relief.

Nashville had perhaps its

best chance of the game in the 69th minute when Portland goalkeeper Steve Clark was able to deflect Anibal Godoy's shot from outside the box.

Nashville outshot Portland 13-3.

Portland rebounded from a 3-1 loss at home to Minnesota in the season opener last weekend.

Nashville was coming off a 2-1 loss at home to Atlanta United in its season opener at Nissan Stadium, with more than 59,000 fans on hand. □





Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender Tristan Jarry (35) stops a shot by Carolina Hurricanes' Justin Williams (14) during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Pittsburgh.
Associated Press

Continued from page 18

Things happened so quickly Geekie didn't have time to get nervous.

"It's kind of good that way, that you don't get to think about stuff," Geekie said. "You kind of go out there and play the game you're used to play. Just tried to go out there and keep things simple, adjust to the speed of the game and play hard out here."

Justin Williams added two third-period goals for Carolina, which pulled into a tie with Columbus and the New York Islanders for the two wild-card spots in the Eastern Conference. Columbus plays in Vancouver on Sunday night. Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 28 shots to earn the second win of his career for Carolina.

"That third period was as quiet as I've ever heard this arena," Williams said. "This arena gets really buzzing. So we definitely did something right."

Patrick Marleau and Evgeni Malkin scored for Pittsburgh and Tristan Jarry finished with 30 saves but the Penguins capped a miserable weekend at home by losing for the second time in 24 hours to teams they're scrapping with for positioning in the crowded Metropolitan Division.

Pittsburgh headed into Saturday with some momentum after wins over Ottawa and Buffalo halted a six-game losing streak that marked the franchise's longest in a decade. By Sun-

day afternoon the Penguins were reeling after getting manhandled by first-place Washington and following it up with a lethargic performance against one of the teams they are attempting to fend off for a playoff spot.

"It's a tight league, that happens sometimes," Pittsburgh captain Sidney Crosby said. "These last two games, you look at (the Capitals) game, a few mistakes early on gets us behind the 8-ball and then today just a short span in the second period, they tie it and get the lead. We're talking about small things here."

Small things that are leading toward big problems for the Penguins, who have dropped 8 of 10 and are as close to missing the postseason as they are first place in the division with less than a month to go in the regular season.

"We're obviously not thrilled with the position we're in over the last few weeks," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "We all have to take ownership for it and now we have to take responsibility to pull ourselves out of it."

The Hurricanes, by contrast, appear to be heading in the other direction. Just 24 hours removed from an overtime victory over the New York Islanders, Carolina backed it up by drilling Pittsburgh in the first of four meetings between the teams over the next three

weeks. "We got one on them," Williams said. "The next three are going to be just as important."

The 21-year-old Geekie — born in July 1998, nine months after the 40-year-old Marleau reached the NHL as a teenager with the Sharks — redirected a point shot from Gardiner to tie the game 9:52 into the first. He capped a five-goal run by the Hurricanes when he beat Jarry for a second time with 3:41 to go to send the 609th consecutive sell-out crowd at PPG Paints Arena to the exits.

"I talked to him before the game," Williams said. "I said, 'You ready?' He said, 'Yeah.' I said, 'You nervous?' He said, 'Maybe a little bit.' I was like, 'Perfect. Just do your thing.' He did it."

NOTES: Geekie is the second player in Carolina history to score twice in his NHL debut, joining Brad DeFauw, who did it on March 10, 2003. ... Penguins D Kris Letang played in his 807th game with the franchise, passing Jaromir Jagr for fourth place on the team's career list. ... Pittsburgh put F Evan Rodrigues back in the lineup a day after making him a healthy scratch. F Sam Lafferty replaced Rodrigues as a healthy scratch. ... Hurricanes D Nino Niederreiter became the fourth Swiss-born player to appear in 600 NHL games. ... Pittsburgh dropped to 6-8 on the second day of back-to-back games. □



Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas (11) and United States midfielder Julie Ertz (8) go up for a header during the first half of a SheBelieves Cup soccer match Sunday, March 8, 2020, in Harrison, N.J.
Associated Press

Ertz's header gives U.S. 1-0 win over Spain in SheBelieves Cup

By **TOM CANAVAN**

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Julie Ertz scored on a header in the 87th minute and the United States extended its unbeaten streak to 30 games with a 1-0 win over Spain in the SheBelieves Cup on Sunday at a sold-out Red Bull Arena.

Christen Press sent a crossing pass from the left flank on a free kick and Ertz, running at full speed, nodded it past Sandra Panos. The Spanish goalkeeper got a hand on the shot but could not prevent it from going into the net.

U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher made three saves in her second shutout of the tournament. She blanked England 2-0 on Wednesday in Orlando, Florida. The win gave the United States six points and put it in position to win the four-team tournament with a tie against winless Japan on Wednesday in Frisco, Texas.

The United States had

some great scoring chances, only to be stopped by Panos. She pushed a shot by Megan Rapinoe over the crossbar in the 32nd minute and made a diving stop on a long-range blast by Samantha Mewis in the 60th minute.

Naeher collected a long, low, hard shot by Alexia Putellas in the 40th minute. A curling shot by Marta Cardona went just wide in the 68th minutes and Naeher had to handle a header by Putellas in the box in the 74th minute.

The tournament ends on Wednesday in Frisco, Texas with England (1-1) facing Spain (1-1) and the United States playing Japan (0-2). England beat Japan 1-0 in the opener of the double-header at a stadium that has a capacity of 25,189.

In a pregame celebration, defender Crystal Dunn was honored for attaining her 100th cap in a game against Mexico on Feb. 7. □

Zhang Weili, Israel Adesanya keep title belts at UFC 248

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Zhang Weili and Joanna Jedrzejczyk were left bloody, bruised and swollen after the strawweights staged one of the most spectacular title fights in recent mixed martial arts history. And though the main event of UFC 248 couldn't measure up to that penultimate scrap, both champions are leaving Las Vegas with their belts.

Zhang defended her UFC 115-pound championship belt with a brutal split-decision victory over former champion Jedrzejczyk at UFC 248 on Saturday night. Israel Adesanya then defended his middleweight title with an anti-climactic unanimous decision over Yoel Romero at T-Mobile Arena in the UFC's hometown.

After Zhang and Jedrzejczyk put on one of the most viscerally entertaining bouts in recent UFC history, Romero and Adesanya staged a snoozer that had fans booing and chanting obscenities. The contrast was stark, but the strawweights' brawl will be remembered a whole lot longer than the faults of the main event.

"That was a tough act to follow," UFC President Dana White said. "I'd have to say the best women's fight I've ever seen, and one of the best fights I've ever seen." Zhang (21-1) and Jedrzejczyk (16-4) traded brutal punches and kicks through-



Zhang Weili, left, connects with a punch to Joanna Jedrzejczyk during the second round of a women's strawweight UFC 248 mixed martial arts bout Saturday, March 7, 2020, in Las Vegas. Associated Press

out five technically fascinating rounds, badly damaging each other's faces. After the last of several standing ovations from the Las Vegas crowd, Zhang won the fight 48-47 on two judges' cards, while Jedrzejczyk won 48-47 on the third.

"I had a long way to get here," said Zhang, who had to move her training camp out of China due to the coronavirus outbreak. "It was very serious, but we made it. I'm so happy now." Zhang and Jedrzejczyk had a pre-fight animosity that carried straight into an uncommonly brutal bout in

which the fighters traded big punches to the face from the opening round. Zhang's power appeared to make the difference early, and Jedrzejczyk's face showed every ounce of it late.

But Jedrzejczyk gathered herself late in the second round and had an outstanding third, switching to a southpaw stance and battering Zhang. The fourth round was more of the same brute punishment for both fighters.

Jedrzejczyk's forehead and eyes began to swell badly in the fifth round, while Zhang bled from cuts on

her face. The fighters embraced in the cage afterward.

"She did great," Jedrzejczyk said. "We both put on one hell of a performance. I'm proud of myself and my team."

Zhang became the UFC's first Chinese champion last year, and she is a key to the promotion's hopes of growing in the world's most populous nation. The personable brawler jumped at the chance to take on Jedrzejczyk, who held the strawweight belt for 2 1/2 years and defended it five times before losing in November 2017.

Zhang clearly has the potential to be a major part of the UFC's desire for global growth, but particularly in Asia. She is wildly popular in China, where MMA is rising in significance.

"She's going to be a massive star," White said of Zhang.

Adesanya (19-0) then defended his belt for the first time, winning 48-47, 48-47 and 49-46 on the judges' scorecards.

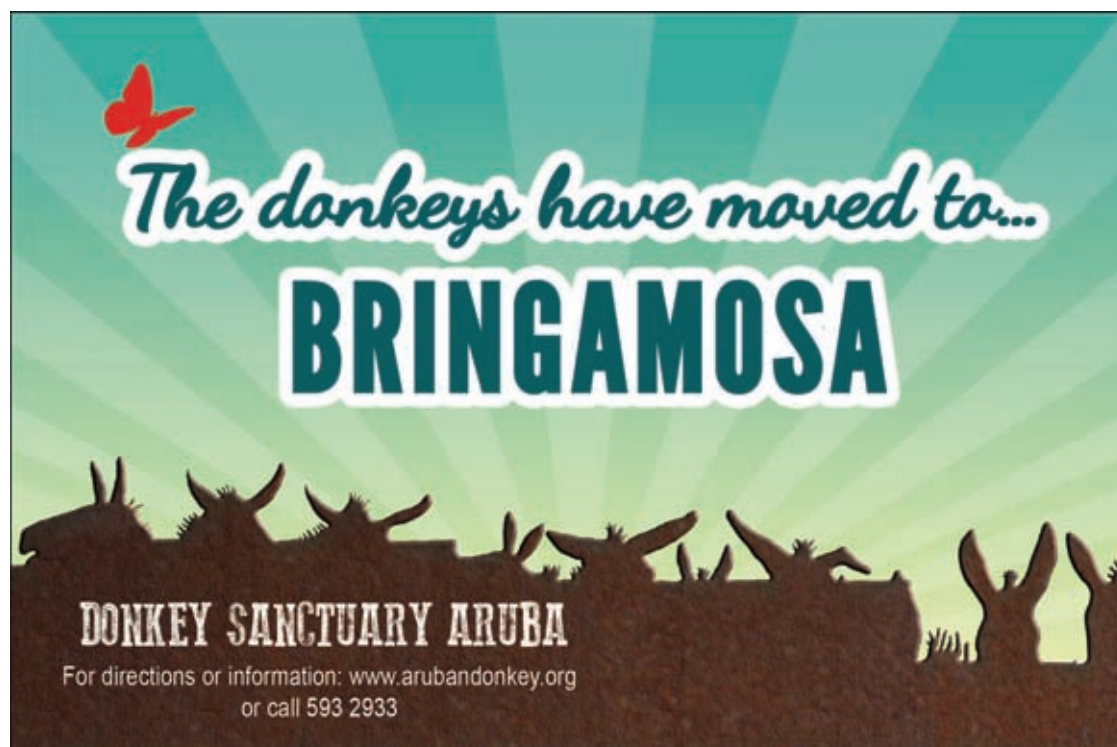
Romero (13-5) fought an extraordinarily passive fight. Adesanya appeared unable to figure out a way through the 42-year-old Cuban's defenses, but his efforts mattered more to the judges.

"I was really frustrated that my dance partner didn't want to dance," Adesanya said. "I've never been in a boring fight, I was expecting more of a fight from him. Even in the fifth round, I thought he would be desperate and bring the fight, and I just kept waiting for the surge. Takes two to tango, and I was the only one willing to dance. If you want to come get the belt, come get the belt. I'm not going to come to you, are you stupid?"

Adesanya's fearsome counterpunching skills were useless largely because Romero barely threw a punch in the first two rounds. Adesanya only had occasional success in penetrating Romero's defenses, but Romero only threw 89 strikes —and landed only 40 — in the five-round fight. Romero still took the microphone after the fight and criticized Adesanya for not fighting more aggressively. Adesanya only joined the UFC in February 2018, but the Nigeria-born, New Zealand-raised fighter has been among the UFC's fastest-rising stars since the moment he hit the cage. He won his first seven UFC fights while displaying his incredible athleticism and all-around skills, steamrolling the middleweight division once ruled by pound-for-pound legend Anderson Silva.

Before the title fights, lightweight Beneil Dariush knocked out Drakkar Klose in the second round with one perfect left hand at the end of a spectacular back-and-forth sequence. Dariush (18-4-1) was staggered by Klose before he responded by stalking Klose across the canvas and landing the left hand that dislodged Klose's mouthpiece and rendered him unconscious on his feet.

On the preliminary card, elite bantamweight prospect Sugar Sean O'Malley went to 11-0 with a dramatic first-round stoppage of José Alberto Quiñónez. The bout was O'Malley's first since March 2018, thanks to injuries and multiple positive doping tests. □



With painted faces, artists fight facial recognition tech

By **KELVIN CHAN AP**

LONDON (AP) — As night falls in London, Georgina Rowlands and Anna Hart start applying makeup. Instead of lipstick and eyeliner, they're covering their faces with geometric shapes.

Rowlands has long narrow blue triangles and thin white rectangles criss-crossing her face. Hart has a collection of red, orange and white angular shapes on hers.

They're two of the four founders of the Dazzle Club, a group of artists set up last year to provoke discussion about the growing using of facial recognition technology.

The group holds monthly silent walks through different parts of London to raise awareness about the technology, which they say is being used for "rampant surveillance." Other concerns include its lack of regulation, inaccuracy and how it affects public spaces.

Some 19 people attended the most recent event in the East London neighborhood of Shoreditch, and anyone can take part in the walks, in which participants have to paint their faces in a style called CV Dazzle.

The technique, developed by artist and researcher Adam Harvey, is aimed at camouflaging against facial detection systems, which turn images of faces into mathematical formulas that can be analyzed by algorithms. CV Dazzle - where CV is short for com-



In this photo taken on Feb. 17, 2020, artists Georgina Rowlands, left and Anna Hart pose for a photo with their faces painted.

Associated Press

puter vision - uses cubist-inspired designs to thwart the computer, said Rowlands. "You're trying to kind of scramble that by applying these kind of random colors and patterns," she said. "The most important is having light and dark colors. So we often go for blacks and whites, very contrasting colors, because you're trying to mess with the shadows and highlights of your face."

A similar technique was used extensively in World War I to camouflage British naval ships and confuse opponents about the actual heading or location of the ships.

To test that their designs work, they use the simple face detection feature on their smartphone cameras. "I can see that I'm hid-

den, it's not detecting me," Rowlands said, checking her phone to see her face doesn't have a square around it.

The rise of facial recognition technology is being tested and spreading in developed democracies after aggressive use in some more authoritarian countries like China.

Britain has long been used to surveillance cameras in public spaces to counter security threats, and London is ranked as having one of the world's highest concentrations of closed-circuit television cameras. But that acceptance is being tested as authorities and corporations increasingly seek to deploy a new generation of cameras with facial recognition technology while activists,

lawmakers and independent experts raise concerns about mass surveillance, privacy, and accuracy.

Opposition to algorithmic surveillance is not limited to Britain. Russia activists were reportedly arrested last month for holding a similar face paint protest over Moscow's facial recognition cameras. Hong Kong pro-democracy activists routinely use face masks in street protests to hide their identities. Rights groups in Serbia and Uganda have opposed government projects to install Chinese-supplied cameras.

Other designers have come up with countermeasures like sunglasses that reflect infrared light to blind cameras.

"There is a movement of resistance against facial

recognition that we are actively participating in and we want to kind of further initiate," said Rowlands.

Rowlands, Hart and two other artists founded the Dazzle Club in August, following news that London's King's Cross district — a busy transport hub where many big offices are being built rapidly — had quietly experimented with live facial recognition cameras without public knowledge or consent, sparking a backlash.

London police recently started using live facial recognition cameras on operational deployments. Last week officers arrested a woman wanted for assault after the cameras picked her out of a street crowd on a busy shopping street. Police say new technology is needed to keep the public safe and images of innocent people are deleted immediately.

Public attitudes to facial recognition technology in Britain appear to be mixed, according to one survey last year, which found most people said they don't know enough about it but nearly half said they should be able to opt out.

The Dazzle Club's founders say they're worried about the effect that the technology has on people in public if cameras are collecting their biometric data — facial images — without clearly explaining what's being done with it.

"We're having to adjust our behavior in public space in a way that I think is problematic," said Hart. □

Facebook says it will ban ads for medical face masks

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook is temporarily banning advertisements for medical face masks as part of an effort to prevent use of its platform to exploit people's concerns about the new coronavirus.

The ban covers advertisements on the social media platform as well as commercial listings on Face-

book Marketplace, the company said. Facebook said it would begin to enforce the ban over the next few days.

"Our teams are monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely and will make necessary updates to our policies if we see people trying to exploit this public health emergency," Rob Leathern, Facebook's director of product management,

said in a statement issued late Friday.

Facebook noted that it previously announced a ban on ads that make claims about the health benefits of a particular product or guaranteed that "a product will prevent someone from contracting" the disease.

Some public health officials have urged people to stop buying masks. U.S. Surgeon

General Dr. Jerome M. Adams noted in a tweet on Feb. 29 that masks aren't effective in protecting the general public "but if healthcare providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk!"

In a separate development, Amtrak announced that it was canceling its nonstop Acela passenger train service between

Washington, D.C., and New York City through late May because of a sharp drop in demand. That service will be canceled starting Tuesday and through May 28, Amtrak said.

The cancellation does not affect Amtrak's other high-speed Acela service connecting Washington, New York and Boston, which runs several times per day with limited stops. □

P&G CEO on products for older folks; cutting back on plastic

By JOSEPH PISANI

NEW YORK (AP) — Tide detergent, Pantene shampoo and Gillette razors have filled cupboards for decades. But being a household name isn't good enough anymore.

Procter & Gamble, which makes those products and more, is facing increasing competition. Shoppers are buying more store brands, which cost less and get prime shelf space in supermarkets and big box stores. And then there's the rise of hip online startups selling razors and natural deodorants directly to a younger generation.

P&G has been buying some of those new brands, such as the maker of Bevel razors, aimed at young men of color.

David Taylor, P&G's CEO, says the company is also tweaking products to appeal to older folks, who are quickly becoming a big chunk of the population. In the U.S., for example, the government expects adults over 65 to outnumber children for the first time in 2034.

Taylor, who has run Cincinnati-based P&G since 2015, recently talked to The Associated Press about the rise of online shopping and his take on reducing plastic waste. The questions and answers below have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: P&G launched a razor aimed at caretakers that's designed to shave someone else. Are there other products you're thinking about for older generations?

A: There is an aging population around the world: take Japan, take Italy, take the U.S. We have tried to make sure that we broaden the audience that we serve. The aging population is a huge, and in many ways, underserved group. It can be everything from how easy it is to read the package, how easy it is to open the package, or the design of the formula to appeal to the specific issues that you may have. Your hair needs are different when you're older. Your skin needs are



In this Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, file photo, Procter & Gamble CEO David Taylor answers questions at a news conference following P&G's shareholder vote, in Cincinnati.

different when you're older.

Q: Why do you think it's an underserved market?

A: If you look in the marketplace there are just countless examples, whether it's packaging or formulation that is designed for the 18-to-49-year-old, which has been more of a historic target audience for many consumer products.

Q: How closely do you work with Amazon?

A: Amazon is a very valued customer, but so is Walmart and Target and Walgreens and Kroger and Costco and Sam's Club. We want to be agnostic to where consumers want to shop. Our e-commerce business is passing \$5 billion and grew 25% last year. It's a big part of our business. But in the context of our total company, it's just under 10% of our sales.

Q: Do you think that's going to change?

A: Yeah, it's no question. E-commerce is growing faster than bricks and mortar.

Q: How are you dealing with stores creating private-label brands that compete with your products?

A: Any competition is a challenge. We see that as an opportunity for us to elevate the performance of our brands. We have grown share at the same time private label has grown, and

P&G is still growing.

Q: P&G has bought some smaller brands. Will you buy more, or is it easier to create them?

A: It varies. Generally, P&G is able to invent most things. We have over 175 active experiments going on in the company. Call it small startups: a few people working on an idea, trying to address a consumer problem. On the other hand, there may have been an entrepreneur that's done a really good job in an area that we say, "That's ahead of what we're doing," or they identified a new area and it may be better to go ahead and acquire that. So we're open to both.

Q: Plastic is a big environmental problem, and P&G uses it for packaging. How are you addressing that?

A: You will see manufacturers like us working to use more recycled plastic. You will see us look for alternatives to plastic. The biggest issue is not plastic, it's when plastic gets into a river that goes into the ocean and degrades and gets into either the food supply or water supply. We are part of The Alliance to End Plastic Waste. It's a global cross-industry effort, and we've raised over \$1 billion dollars over five years working with many nonprofit organizations and municipalities to get new technologies and solutions so that plastic waste gets addressed, collected and processed. □

TODAY

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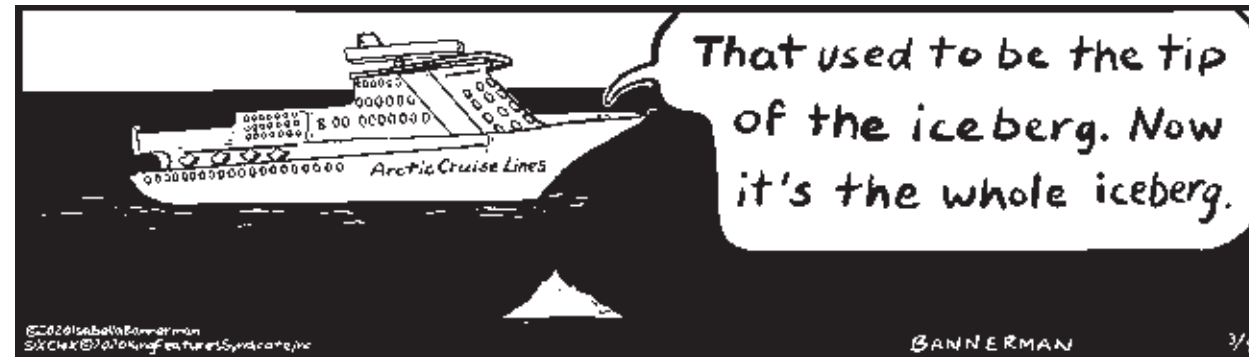
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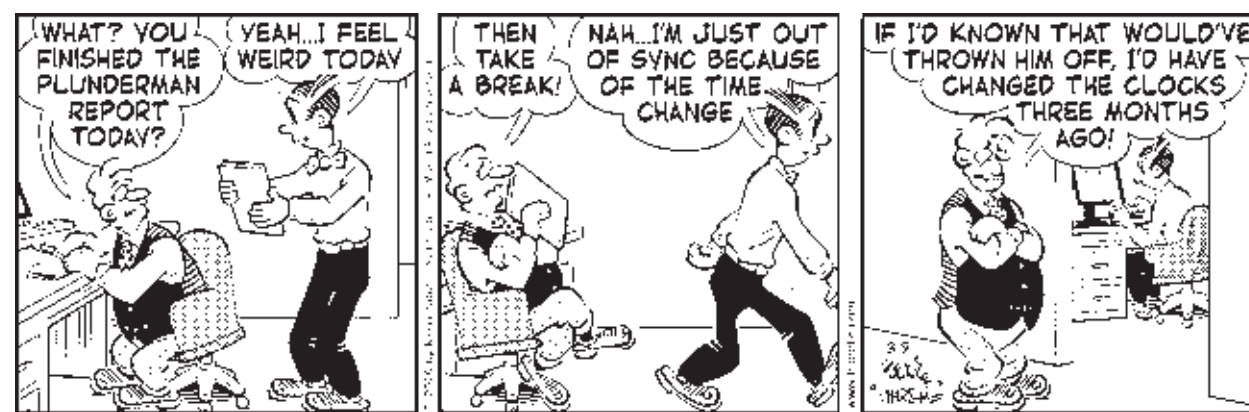
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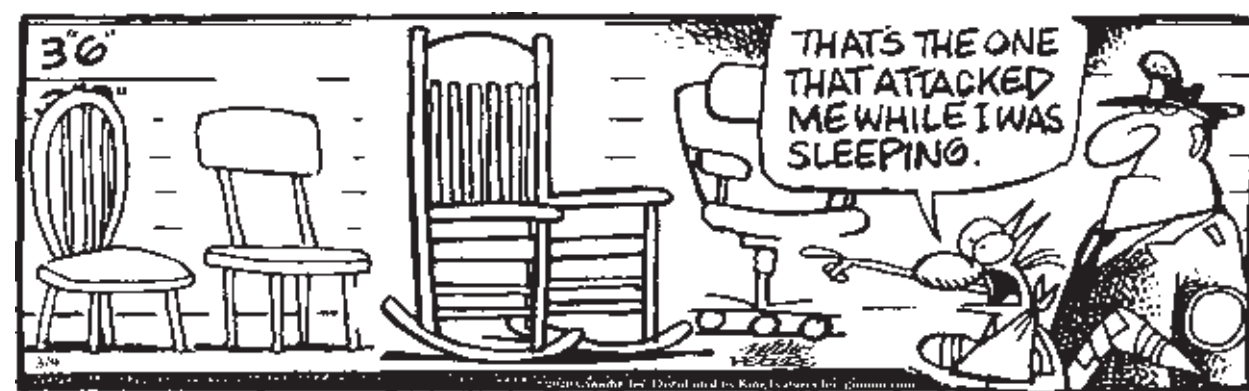
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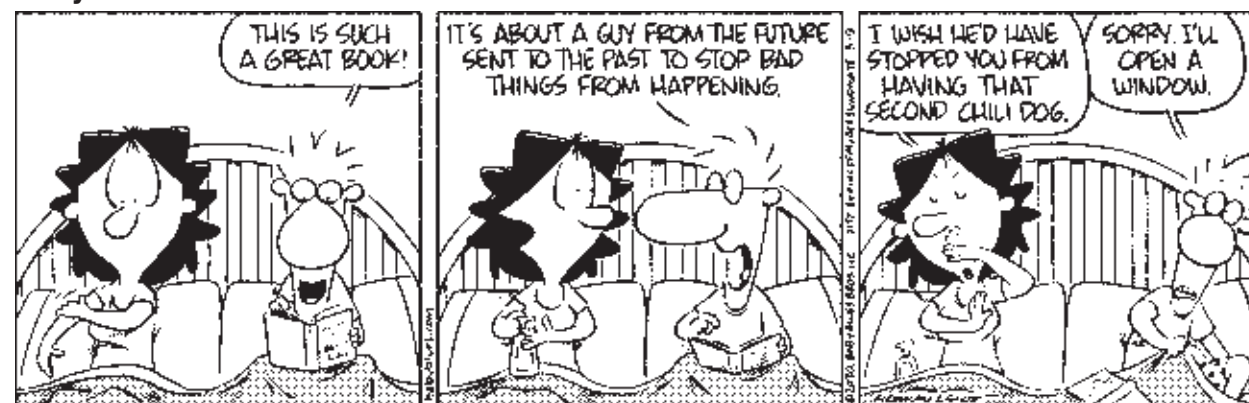
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

8				7	6			
7			2	6			1	
			5					4
2		5			7			8
4	3						9	6
6			3			4		5
1	6				2			
		2		1	4		3	
		4	9				2	

Difficulty Level ★

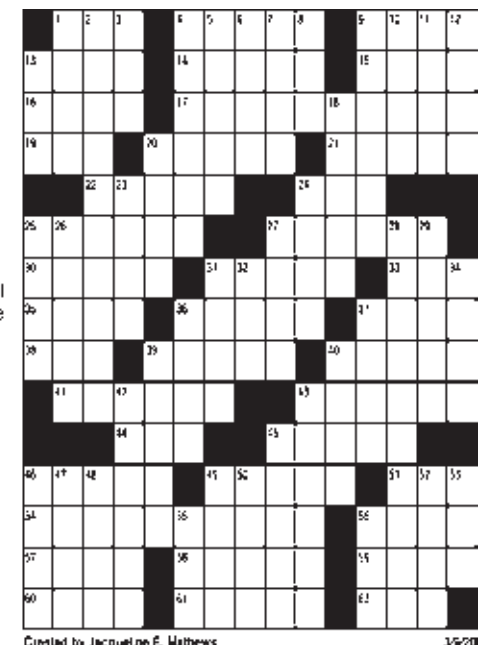
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

2	1	7	3	4	8	5	9	6
4	8	9	6	1	5	3	7	2
5	3	6	9	7	2	8	4	1
8	7	1	4	6	3	9	2	5
9	4	2	5	8	7	1	6	3
6	5	3	1	2	9	4	8	7
1	2	8	7	3	4	6	5	9
7	6	5	8	9	1	2	3	4
3	9	4	2	5	6	7	1	8

- ACROSS**
1. For a denary
 2. Svc
 3. Head monk
 4. 18th-century U.S. president
 5. Flag color
 6. Salt water
 7. Big cat
 8. Swiss capital
 9. Upgrd
 10. Cheap container
 11. Top sail on a dent
 12. Vases' birthplace
 13. cl informed about
 14. Plato's T
 15. Dangers
 16. Tears to oils
 17. Actor Jeremy
 18. Turkey, deception
 19. Woolly mama
 20. Widebeats
 21. Songbirds
 22. Entreaty
 23. Stealing or covering
 24. Old word for female colleagues
 25. Housekeepers
 26. Brother of Prince Charles & Andrew
 27. Department store chain
 28. Su's for meteor or quartz
 29. Distance across
 30. Bet's invention
 31. Piano exercise
 32. Little 'sma' digit
 33. Creamy sausage
 34. Mysterious sky
 35. sighs
 36. Think, ponder
 37. Overdo the role
 38. Litter members
 39. Opposite of admit
 40. Pl'd along behind
 41. Gore & his dad

- DOWN**
1. Little nipper
 2. Do a 180
 3. Van cave
 4. Detects
 5. Lee or Wi is
 6. Cheat out of something valuable
 7. Excusively
 8. British custom
 9. Epidemic
 10. Greasy
 11. Thrown for a stunned
 12. Shoelace problem
 13. British network
 14. Vandyke or goat
 15. Coolidge & others
 16. Takes first prize
 17. Therefore
 18. Sty residents
 19. E's with cups
 20. Without
 21. Enchanting
 22. Opposite a native
 23. Barney Rubble's pal
 24. Scarlet or burgundy
 25. Vane direction
 26. Had on
 27. Line formed with a comb



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	O	M	E	R	E	L	A	Y	S	L	E	W
R	U	E	D		U	N	I	T	E		T	A
A	C	T	S		P	E	E	D	E	S	T	R
G	H	I		G	E	M	S		H	A	R	M
				C	A	R	E		K	E		
				P	A	U	S	E		V	E	R
				A	L	L	A		A	D	A	G
				N	O	O	N		F	I	A	T
				G	N	U		H	O	L	S	
				E	S	S	A		B	A	N	T
				H	U	T		P	A	N	D	A
				A	B	B	O		D	A	T	E
				B	A	L	D	E	R	D	A	S
				E	K	E	D		F	O	R	T
				D	E	W		K	N	E	E	S

39. Provide banquet food
40. Fanned as money
41. Building near a vineyard
42. Inlaid
43. Spend foolishly
44. Tridge
45. Bee's home
46. K'n
47. Japanese wrestling form
48. Fumblers word
49. Part of a winding road
50. Most
51. Creek in a bac situation

'Sustainable gardening' includes many eco-friendly practices

By DEAN FOSDICK

"Sustainable" is one of gardening's trendiest buzzwords, yet it carries a range of definitions. Just what does it mean in practical terms, and how important is it to the average gardener?

Very important, according to a recent plant trends study by horticulturalists with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). It found strong interest in native plants, "re-wilding" gardens, growing edibles, and going easy on wildlife, among other concerns.

"More and more people are supporting sustainability, where the social, environmental and economic factors balance," said Mark Tancig, a horticulture agent with University of Florida Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension. "That means planting things that don't require as much water or fertilizer. Using plants that resist disease and insects. Choosing native plants in mixtures that attract wildlife."

"That not only saves you money, but they look good, too," Tancig said. "They're restorative to the environment."

Sustainable isn't necessarily the same as organic, noted Erica Chernoh, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist.

"Organic" has become legally recognized," Chernoh said. "Sustainability is more of an open book, combining ecological, sociological and economic factors." Ross Penhallegon, a horticulturist emeritus with Oregon State University Extension, said sustainability requires that we all "look at our garden and ask what we can do to reduce carbon imprint, reduce irrigation and use less products." □

Classifieds

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 1/1408 (15k);
Week 2/1113 (16k);
Week 5/1315 (18k);
Week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);
Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
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Week 10/1207 (15k);
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1 BR sleep 4 \$ 3 K
Date : 3/20/20 to 3/27/20

Marriott Ocean Club

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1BR Ocean View \$ 10 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum Season
2 BR Ocean View \$16K
2 BR Ocean side \$17K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR wk 8 \$14K
Building 6 on the 4 th floor
28 weeks remain
1BR wk 11 \$14K
Building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

2 BR PH wk 11/12 \$35 K each
Building 9 on the 7th floor
30 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,7,8 \$8K each
Birdie 1 on ground floor
22/27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Studio wk 5,6,7,8,9
Same room birdie 9
3rd floor 33 weeks remain
Each \$10 K each

212579

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 8/9 \$9,5 K each
Eagle 9 ground floor
27 /19 weeks remain
1 BR wk 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 ground floor
33/34 weeks remain
Divi Village
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16 weeks remain \$7,5K
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Dutch Village

1 BR wk 7 and 8 \$8K each
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1 BR wk 12 \$7,5 K
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Jet Blue	588 2244
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March 10
Freedom of the Seas
Marella Discovery 2

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Who's greener? Mine fight pits electric cars against flower

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The rare Tiehm's buckwheat stands less than a foot tall (30 centimeters) in Nevada's rocky high desert, its thin, leafless stems adorned with tiny yellow flowers in spring.

To the Australian company that wants to mine lithium beneath the federal land where it grows, the perennial herb is a potential roadblock to a metal badly needed for electric vehicles and the global push to reduce greenhouse gases. To environmentalists determined to halt the open pit mine, it's a precious species that exists nowhere else in the world.

And to plant ecologists, it's a scientific challenge to try to grow the wildflower from seeds in a greenhouse.

Whose mission is a nobler shade of green depends on who you ask.

The competing interests appeared to find some common ground earlier this year at the remote site about 200 miles (320 kilometers) southeast of Reno. Loneer Ltd. has spent millions exploring the site, which it says is one of the world's biggest undeveloped lithium-boron deposits.

But the Center for Biological Diversity withdrew its lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in January after Loneer ended its exploration activities and agreed to provide the group notice before resuming any work at Rhyolite Ridge in rural Esmeralda County.

Still, Loneer remains committed to the mine it says is expected to produce 22,000 tons (19,958 metric tonnes) of lithium carbonate needed for electric car batteries like the ones Tesla makes east of Reno, create 400 to 500 construction jobs



This June 1, 2019, file photo provided by the Center for Biological Diversity, shows the rare desert wildflower Tiehm's buckwheat in the Silver Peak Range about 120 miles southeast of Reno, Nev.

Associated Press

and 300 to 400 operational jobs.

And environmentalists insist the legal battle is just beginning.

"The storm is brewing on the horizon," said Patrick Donnelly, Nevada director of the Center for Biological Diversity.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering the center's petition, filed in October, to add the flower to the federal list of endangered species. And the Nevada Division of Forestry announced this week it would soon start gathering public comments to help determine whether to take its own action to protect the plant.

"If you look at a map of the lithium deposits and a map of the buckwheat, there's really no way to build the mine without wiping out the buckwheat," Donnelly said.

"We fully anticipate a fight

for many years to come."

The company acknowledges Tiehm's buckwheat hasn't been documented anywhere else on earth, but denies the mine would lead to its extinction.

Company officials say they've been researching the plant since 2016, going to great lengths to ensure its protection and examining how it's fared during previous mining operations at Rhyolite Ridge, near the small town of Tonopah, over the past 80 years.

They recently spent \$60,000 for a yearlong study at the University of Nevada, Reno. Scientists there are growing hundreds of seedlings in a greenhouse to determine whether it's feasible to transplant them into the wild to bolster the limited population, an estimated 43,000 plants covering a total of 21 acres (8.5 hectares).

"We have always been aware of the buckwheat. It didn't come as a surprise," loneer President Bernard Rowe told The Associated Press in a phone interview from Australia.

All site activity has been undertaken with the "protection of the buckwheat first and foremost in mind," Rowe said. He added the company's mitigation strategy "will ensure protection and, in fact, the expansion of the buckwheat population."

"We're seeing evidence of that at the greenhouse at UNR," Rowe said. "We've got a reasonably high degree of confidence we can successfully propagate these plants and protect them."

University researchers are doing their best to replicate the harsh desert conditions with poor soil quality at the greenhouse where they planted 3,276 Tiehm seeds in January.

"We torture them. We want them to know life is hard, starting now," said Beth Leger, a UNR plant ecologist who has done extensive research on invasive cheat grass and native plants of the Great Basin region.

She and her graduate as-

sistant Jamey McClinton hoped as many as 600 would germinate, but were pleasantly surprised when 900 had sprouted by mid-February.

"We didn't even know if it would grow in a greenhouse," said McClinton, who did her master's work on the related but distinct Crosby buckwheat and isn't aware of anyone else trying to grow Tiehm's.

The slow-growing flowers have fragile roots that dry out easily and make up 70% of the plant.

"We know they are very tolerant of horrible soil. That's unusual," Leger said. "What we don't know is how it will grow in other kinds of soil."

Leger, who also serves as director of UNR's Museum of Natural History, said those who dismiss the flowers as weeds unworthy of all the fuss don't understand the value of biodiversity.

"Weed is a human construct. A weed is a plant that grows anywhere a human doesn't want it," she said, adding biodiversity is "magic" and a safeguard against future loss.

The research funded by Loneer is examining the possibility of transplanting plants as well as growing new ones from seedlings to be planted at or near the mining site.

As far as transplanting, Leger said, "I don't think it's an awesome idea."

"To establish a real population," McClinton added, "you have to grow them from seedlings on their own."

But Donnelly said the new research appears to be aimed at finding an alternative site "to keep the species alive so Loneer could destroy its habitat."

He acknowledged a difference between transplanting plants and growing them from seeds, but said it's "beside the point, really."

"A species is more than a set of genetic material. A species is inextricable from its habitat," Donnelly said. "To allow a species' habitat to be wiped out and put it someplace else, is functionally allowing it to go extinct." □

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Royal farewell: Harry, Meghan on final duty before new life

By DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It's definitely a farewell. But will it be fond?

Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, will fulfill their final royal commitment when they appear Monday at the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in London. It's the last time they will be seen at work with the entire royal Windsor clan before they fly off into self-imposed exile in North America.

The service marks the end of a two-month drama that began when the couple announced plans to walk away from their roles as senior members of Britain's royal family and into a world where they will have to earn a living, pay their own way and even open some doors for themselves. It's uncharted territory for the House of Windsor, even as the family seeks to downsize.

"I think this is a blow because I don't think (the Windsors) would have envisaged that the slimmed-down monarchy would have actually meant that there was no role for Meghan and Harry," said Pauline Maclaran, co-author of "Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture." "I mean, they really brought a new dimension to the royal family brand."

It wasn't supposed to happen this way.

Less than two years ago, Harry and Meghan were seen as a golden couple that would help extend the royal family's appeal to a new generation. Their wedding on May 19, 2018, united a grandson of 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II with the former Meghan Markle, a bi-racial American actress who had starred for seven years on the U.S. television series "Suits." George Clooney, Serena Williams and Elton John attended their wedding at Windsor Castle, which ended with the royal couple kissing for their flag-waving fans and riding through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage. But the horses were barely



In this Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex attend the 91st Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in London.

back at the stable before pressures intensified on the couple, who became the Duke and Duchess of Sussex on their wedding day. Even before the ceremony, Britain's tabloid newspapers featured stories about a rift between Meghan and her father. When Meghan became pregnant, some commentators criticized her for jetting off to New York for a baby shower, a strange American tradition to many in Britain. Others lampooned Meghan's politically correct pronouncements on the environment and women's rights. Meghan's supporters saw racism at work. Harry publicly defended his wife and directed his anger at the intrusive media he has resented all his life because of the paparazzi's role in chasing his mother, Princess Diana, on the night in 1997 when she died in a Paris car accident.

The prince himself was stung by media reports of a split between him and his older brother, Prince William. The notion that the brothers and their glamorous wives would be a royal "Fab Four" for the 21st century began to fade.

"For me, and for my wife, of course there's a lot of stuff that hurts, especially when the majority of it is untrue," Harry, 35, told ITV News last fall. "I will not be bullied into playing a game that killed

my mum."

Then in January, the couple sparked a royal crisis when they revealed that they intended to step back from their duties as senior members of the royal family. The move came after holiday pictures were released of the queen along with son Prince Charles, grandson Prince William and great-grandson Prince George. The future was pictured and Harry wasn't part of it. In a personal statement, Harry and Meghan revealed that they intended to become "financially independent" and "balance" their time between the U.K. and North America, while continuing to honor and serve the queen. They wanted, in essence, to be part-time royals.

Hours later, Buckingham Palace issued a statement hinting that this part-time notion had caught some in the royal household by surprise. Discussions with the Duke and Duchess, it said, were "at an early stage."

With his ginger hair, close-cropped beard and easy manner, Harry had become one of the royal family's most popular members after shedding the hard-partying image of his youth. The youngest son of Charles and the late Princess Diana, Harry is sixth in line to the throne, after his father, William and William's three children. More impor-

tantly, he and William were seen as a new generation who would modernize the royals.

But there's no precedent for a part-time role in the House of Windsor's family firm. After all, Edward VIII was largely shunned by the royal family after he abdicated the throne to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson in 1936.

Anguish followed the dueling announcements.

Aggrieved taxpayers insisted that Harry and Meghan repay the 2.4 million pounds (\$3.1 million) of public money spent to renovate the house in Windsor where they had planned to live. Their social media feeds, normally full of heart-shaped emoticons, were flooded with ill-tempered commentary about their decision to abandon Britain.

A family summit sought to hash out a way forward.

Finally, the queen stepped in: Harry and Meghan would stop carrying out royal duties in March, would pay back the renovation costs and would receive no public money after they stepped aside. While Harry and Meghan would always be part of the royal family, they won't be allowed to use the word "royal" to earn a living.

That meant the couple had to abandon plans to use the "SussexRoyal" brand

they had sought to trademark.

So, what now?

Well to start with, they won't use their royal titles.

But other issues remain: how will Harry and Meghan earn a living and who will pay for their security, which has until now been financed by U.K. taxpayers? The Canadian government has said it will not.

The couple are expected to earn their keep at least partly through speaking engagements — sort of like the Obamas. They already spoke at a JPMorgan investment conference last month in Florida, but it isn't known whether they were paid.

Simon Morgan, a former royal protection officer, estimates their security costs at "several million" pounds a year.

"When you look at the royal family, their security package is very much built on a model from cradle to grave," said Morgan, the director of operations and training for the security firm Trojan Consultancy. "It's built on an element of rapport and trust ... when we talk about the cost, the initial setup of that team will be quite important."

But many royal watchers are more interested in what caused this seismic shift in the British monarchy. Some blame Meghan, who admitted last year that adjusting to royal life had been difficult.

The 38-year-old Los Angeles native graduated from Northwestern University and carved out a career in movies and television long before she met Harry. The couple's first child, Archie, was born in May 2019.

Harry and Meghan's agreement with the queen calls for their decision to be revisited in a year. They may choose to return to front-line duties, where their super-celebrity status allows them to highlight their favorite causes.

But will they miss it? Meghan might miss the events like one on Friday, in which she urged male students to honor the women in their lives. □



This image released by Netflix shows Mark Wahlberg, right, and Winston Duke in a scene from "Spenser Confidential."

Associated Press

Review: Netflix whiffs in Boston with 'Spenser Confidential'

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

It's back to Boston for Mark Wahlberg in the new Netflix crime flick "Spenser Confidential" so you know what that inevitably means, right?

There's eventually going to have to be a fight with dirty cops in an Irish bar — sorry, it's pronounced "bah" — while the Red Sox are playing on TV. Those are the rules.

Sure enough, the bar brawl arrives 30 minutes into this meandering film that tries to piggyback on the good will created by novelist Robert B. Parker's wisecracking boxer-turned-private eye Spenser, played on TV by Robert Urich.

"Spenser Confidential" is a bit of a mess tonally with a plot that keeps attracting new weird layers, like lint on a sweater. It wants to be funnier than it is. It hopes to be deeper than it is.

Wahlberg as Spenser is an ex-con and an ex-police officer who gets out of prison only to stumble into a conspiracy that includes crooked cops, Dominican street gangs armed with machetes and dirty business investors pursuing gentrification and gambling. How high does it go? "High up," he learns.

If there's a Spenser, there has to be his buddy Hawk, and this role is filled awkwardly by Winston Duke. He's a fine actor but screenwriters Sean O'Keefe and Brian Helgeland haven't really integrated him well,

making Hawk into Spenser's roommate, an oat milk drinking, MMA fighter who adores animals.

This Spenser is such a good guy that even one of his enemies calls him a "choir boy." Just ask his ex-girlfriend (Iliza Shlesinger), who has a love-hate relationship with him but admires his "strong moral code" even though she tells him: "You are incapable of real intimacy." Contradicting herself sometime later, she screams "Go, Sox!" during sex with him, which is the most Boston thing to do.

Spenser was only sent to prison because he beat up his crooked police chief, who was, in turn, beating up his wife. He comes out of prison and immediately the chief is killed gruesomely. Spenser sticks his neck out to clear the name of a cop who has been framed for the murder. "Why are you doing this?" the widow asks Spenser. "Because it's the right thing to do," our good guy replies.

Like a stage musical that is propelled by its songs, this film moves thanks to its frequent violent outbursts. Director Peter Berg evenly spaces out the fight scenes so you can tell one is coming every 10 or 15 minutes. "Man, you get beat up a lot," Hawk tells Spenser. (Everyone in this Boston seems to be a member of a boxing gym.)

In between the fights, "Spenser Confidential" reaches for film noir, like a "Chinatown" in Beantown

(one character even has a toothpick sticking out of his mouth at all times). Sometimes it tries to be a "Dirty Harry" movie or to ape the dark feel of "Gone Baby Gone." Other times it tries to be a buddy comedy but with few actual laughs, unless you consider the line "Did you just kick me, bro?" funny.

Berg and Wahlberg have previously worked together on "Lone Survivor," "Patriots Day" and "Deepwater Horizon." Playing a renegade good guy is right up Wahlberg's alley and to say he sleepwalks down that alley this time isn't too harsh. On the positive side, some nifty acting turns are offered from Post Malone and Marc Maron.

But there are some head-scratching moments, including a man-versus-dog fight that serves no purpose and an attempt to reach for a sequel when the first one hasn't been earned. And why does Spenser sometimes write down all his clues, pointlessly circling and underlining words on a notepad like "Why?"

It's not even clear why the film is called "Spenser Confidential." There's nothing hush-hush about it except this: Everyone associated with the film might want to keep that confidential.

"Spenser Confidential," a Netflix release, is rated R for violence, language throughout and sexual content. Running time: 110 minutes. One star out of four.

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PBP MON-THU 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 FRI 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45 SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45 SUN 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40

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PH MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20 FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40 SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

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MON-THU 5:05 | 7:20 FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 10:00 SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 10:00 SUN 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20

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PH MON-FRI 6:00 SAT-SUN 3:30 | 6:00

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ELISABETH MOSS | ALDIS HODGE

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MON-THU 7:30 FRI 7:30 | 10:15 SAT 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15 SUN 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30

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American Film Institute postponing gala with Julie Andrews

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Film Institute says it is postponing its 48th annual AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute honoring Julie Andrews in an apparent response to the new coronavirus outbreak.

The organization originally planned to give Andrews its Life Achievement Award on April 25 in Los Angeles. It will be rescheduled for

early summer.

"AFI's decision to postpone the event is simply in response to the rapidly evolving nature of current events and our promise to ensure the well-being of the artists and audience that gather each year to celebrate America's art form," AFI CEO and President Bob Gazzale said in a statement Saturday. "This move

will allow our full attention to focus on the many gifts that Julie Andrews has given the world."

AFI did not directly cite the virus outbreak that officials in numerous countries, including the United States, are trying to contain. The 84-year-old won two Grammy Awards and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

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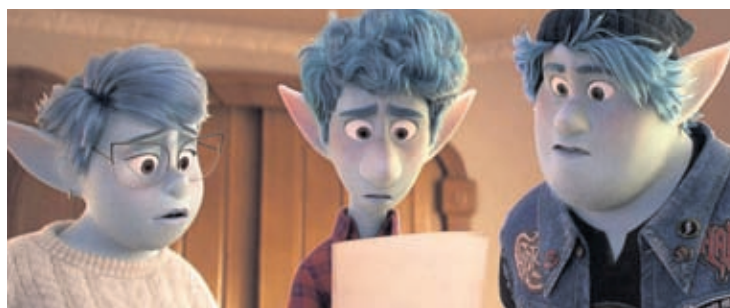
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Business as usual at North American box office amid virus

LOS ANGELES (AP) — North American audiences are not staying away from theaters amid virus concerns, according to the weekend's box office numbers. Disney and Pixar's "Onward" topped the charts as expected and the Ben Affleck basketball drama "The Way Back" also opened normally. "Onward" earned \$40 million from 4,310 North American locations, according to studio estimates on Sunday. It's on the lower end of openings for the studio, more in line with "The Good Dinosaur's" launch in 2015. "Onward" is an original story about two teenage elf brothers voiced by Chris Pratt and Tom Holland who get a chance to spend one last day with their late father. "I think it's a solid start for an original animated film," said Cathleen Taff, Disney's president of distribution. "We're especially excited

about the fact that we've seen such good word of mouth." The studio expects it to continue performing well with spring breaks starting for many students and families next week. Internationally, "Onward" picked up \$28 million. Disney noted that outside of Asia-Pacific regions, coronavirus concerns have not made a material impact on earnings. The weekend overall is down some 50% from the same weekend last year, but that's only because that's when "Captain Marvel" opened to over \$153 million, and not any indication of the market taking a hit, said Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. The rest of the charts also looked normal, even with recent virus-related shake-ups in the entertainment industry, including the cancellation of the South by



In this image released by Disney/Pixar, characters Laurel, voiced by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, from left, Ian, voiced by Tom Holland, and Barley, voiced by Chris Pratt, appear in a scene from "Onward."

Associated Press

Southwest festival and the decision to push back the release of the new James Bond film "No Time to Die" from April to November. Universal and Blumhouse's "The Invisible Man" dropped to second place in week two with \$15.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$52.7 million. Worldwide, it's just shy of \$100 million. In third place, Warner Bros.' "The Way Back" opened in line with projections with an estimated \$8.5 million. The R-rated drama cost around

\$21 million to produce. Affleck's performance was well-received by critics, and the star has been unusually candid about his own real-life struggles with alcoholism in the press in the weeks leading up to release. "It's a very specific drama," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution. "Ben Affleck did a great job and the reviews back that up." Audiences, who skewed older (64% were over the

age of 35), gave the film a B+ CinemaScore. Goldstein noted that the audience age broadened over the weekend. He also hasn't seen any significant impact of the virus on the North American box office yet. "When you look at the box office this weekend with 'Onward' and 'The Way Back,' these are solid numbers when we're all concerned 'Will people hole up inside?'" Goldstein said. We're not seeing evidence of that, but anything can happen." Industry analysts are keeping an eye on the numbers as the news continues to develop around the outbreak. "Thus far, I'm not seeing any impact," Dergarabedian said. "This weekend played out exactly as expected. You have families and children going to theaters to the tune of \$40 million. People remain in the habit of going to the movies." □

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